



## 15<sup>TH</sup> PACIFIC ISLANDS ROUNDTABLE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION (PIRT) ANNUAL MEETING MENDANA HOTEL, HONIARA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

23 – 24 April, 2012

### MEETING REPORT AND OUTCOMES

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#### A. 2012 MEETING INTRODUCTION

1. The 15th Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) Annual Meeting was planned to be down sized to focus on a preparatory planning meeting for the **9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas** planned for mid 2013. The meeting was held from April 23<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> in Honiara, Solomon Islands. The meeting was focused on 2 streams the first being the Lessons Learning Learned and the second Conference Committee Preparatory Meeting
2. The Conference Committee Meeting will focus on planning the next conference objectives, themes, agenda, hosting arrangements and funding. The Heads of Organisation meeting will be convened to discuss the roundtable business, next conference and new regional opportunities for roundtable engagement.

#### B. WHO WE ARE

3. 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**.
4. PIRT partners have been encouraged to sign a charter outlining their commitment to the 2008 to 2012 Action Strategy and Principles adopted at the 8<sup>th</sup> Pacific Nature Conservation and Protected Areas conference held in Alotau, PNG in 2007. A total of thirteen key partners have now signed<sup>1</sup>. At the 2008

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<sup>1</sup> IUCN, WWF, Conservation International (CI), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), The Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) network, University of the South Pacific (USP), the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience

PIRT meeting in Fiji, partners agreed to focus roundtable support at the country level, initially in Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, towards improving coordination and implementation of their existing national nature conservation strategies and mainstream them into national development strategies. This will provide lessons to guide roundtable support in other Pacific island countries.

### **C. PACIFIC CONSERVATION CHALLENGES & LESSONS LEARNED (DAY ONE – MONDAY 23<sup>RD</sup>)**

5. The Meeting was opened with welcome and presentation of the meeting objectives by the Chair Mr Taholo Kami stressing the importance of discussing conservation challenges and issues such as green economy and climate change and agreeing on joint actions from PIRT.

6. The meeting was attended by Secretariat of Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) (Stuart Chape, Posa Skelton, Bruce Jefferies, Lui Bell), Conservation International (Leilani Duffy), Wildlife Conservation Society (J Ross Sinclair, John (JK) Kuange), GIZ (Mataki Melchior), USP (Teddy Fong), IUCN (Taholo Kami, Bernie O'callaghan, Etika Rupeni), Secretariat for Pacific Communities – SPC (Lindsay Chapman, Ministry of Environment Solomon Islands ( Lysa Wini, Josef Hurutarau)

7. REPORT BY COORDINATOR – An update of PIRT activities to date which included the report on the 14<sup>th</sup> Roundtable Meeting in Fiji in 2011 which included the green economy discussions, update of activities and some proposed activities. The following were agreed as follow up on coordination:

- (i) A work plan and budget to be produced and circulated to members and partners to show total budget the need for members requested contributions.
- (ii) Annual report to be produced to members of PIRT activities.

8. OVERVIEW OF 9<sup>TH</sup> CONFERENCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS BY SPREP – The SPREP proposal for the conference proposed the theme - Natural Solutions to Impacts of Climate Change and proposed the following objectives:

- i. Action Strategy 2008-2012 and 2013-2017
- ii. Natural solutions to impacts of climate change
- iii. National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs)
- iv. CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas and Island Biodiversity Programme of Work
- v. Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Learning

There were discussions to broaden the theme to include other issues and this was to be discussed and agreed during the detailed discussion in Day 2.

9. SHARING LESSONS LEARNED: The following initiatives and organisation were presented lessons, challenges and opportunities; Coral Triangle Initiative-Solomon Islands, Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF), Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) Network and the Micronesia Challenge.

10. CORAL TRIANGLE – SOLOMON ISLANDS: The Solomon Islands CTI provided an update of highlights such as effective coordination at national level such as the National Coordination Committee and working groups. The initiative has increased funding partnership which currently includes USAID, Australia and ADB to target improved MPA policy and legislation, effective management and strengthening provincial governments in MPA implementation in Malaita, Isabel, Choiseul & Western Province. Some challenges shared were; (i) provincial capacity to effectively engage and participate, (ii) coordination at national and provincial levels, and (iii) adapting global climate change toolkits for local use. The forum highlighted the need to follow lessons on CTI and explore new ways to secure large funding partnerships or buckets for fisheries, forestry to support communities.

11. CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND (CEPF): The CEPF was presented by Leilani from Conservation International (CI) and shared the importance of partnership and sharing success

stories. The fund has supported a total of 79 projects funding invasive eradication, improving management of key biodiversity areas and building awareness at community level since its inception in 2008 and will end in 2013.

12. **LOCALLY MANAGED MARINE AREAS (LMMA) NETWORK:** Dr Hugh Govan presented an update of the LMMA Network's new strategic direction which focuses on learning, advocating community based adaptive management (CBAM) and financing with newly established governance. The network is now run by a newly elected council and is celebrating 10 years anniversary this year.

13. **MICRONESIA CHALLENGE:** Technology made it possible for us to be hooked up with Alissa Takesy representing the Micronesia Challenge who reminded us again of the Micronesia Challenge leaders commitment to *effectively conserve at 30% of the near shore marine and 20% of forest resources across Micronesia*. The main highlights were that MC has strengthened 190 PAs with over 680,000HA, leveraged \$15m with an endowment at approximately \$10.9m and increased capacity of MC young leaders.

14. **HOW CAN WE DO CONSERVATION BETTER:** The following presentation were made; (i) Coastal Fisheries, (ii) REDD++, Large PAs & Oceanscape, Melanesia Spearhead Group (MSG) Terrestrial & Blue Carbon Commitment, Green/Blue Economy, Geographical Focus and Sustainable Financing.

15. **COASTAL FISHERIES:** Dr Lindsay Chapman, SPC presented the issues of inshore of fisheries from SPC's perspective and emphasized the importance role that it plays in the Pacific communities for cultural and economic sustenance. Other issues presented included lack of capacity; need to get financial commitment from government, lack of scientific monitoring or monitoring impact and lack of enforcement. He emphasized the need for a regional approach in inshore fisheries management to tackle issues such as bio-security, enforcement but the bottom line is the need of a policy and approach for the food security issues that is threatened by overfishing, climate change and increased population.

16. **REDD++ (GIZ):** Dr Malchior Mataki on behalf of Dr Wulf Kilman, presented the reef to ridge approach work on strengthening adaptive capacities of Solomon Islands funded by the German government across 12 countries and 4 sectors with a total of 17.2 million euros. The current constraints in implementing climate change in the Pacific included very centralized government, highly sectoral with weak mechanisms, absence of effective coordination and weak partnership. There is a great need to improve partnership and coordination implementing climate change at provincial, national and at regional level.

17. **MSG TERRESTRIAL AND BLUE CARBON COMMITMENTS:** Taholo presented the big commitments by the MSG for a Blue Carbon Initiative which recognises the significant role of wetlands, coastal swamps and sea grass beds in sequestering carbon. The terrestrial commitment will formalize an obligation from each countries to conserve and manage our forests, major water catchment and river systems, mountain and coastal ecosystems as well to ensure sustainable land use practices are applied with agriculture and development. PIRT will need to define some partners to work with the MSG secretariat to define framework of these.

18. **Other Issues –** There were discussions for PIRT to improve coordination around establishment of Large Protected Area systems, Sustainable financing and demonstration model geographical focus which we are demonstrating integrated approach of conservation, climate change and sustainable livelihoods.

#### **D. MEETING IN PREPARATION FOR THE 9th PACIFIC ISLANDS CONFERENCE ON NATURE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTED AREAS (DAY TWO – TUESDAY 24<sup>TH</sup>)**

19. SOLOMON ISLANDS SPECIES MEETING – The roundtable participants joined the workshop focusing specifically on species work done in Solomon Islands in the first part of the morning. The research presented were mainly done by young Solomon Islanders doing research both in marine and terrestrial.

20. CONFERENCE MEETING: The meeting was reconvened and chaired by Stuart Chape (SPREP) and the SPREP conference paper was presented.

21. THEME – The agreement is to focus the next conference on Nature Solutions – Building Resilience for a Changing Pacific (with focus on green economy, climate change, communities and protected areas)

22. KEY REVIEWS: The following reviews are to be done for the conference; (i) Assess Assessment of status of conservation areas/protected areas; compare with Aichi targets with links to NBSAPs and (ii) Review the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2008 – 2012 and formulate the 2013-2017 Action Strategy with links to NBSAPs. This is to complement the monitoring of the Code of Conduct.

23. KEY TOPICS: The following were agreed to as key agenda topic for the conference:

- i. Natural solutions to impacts of Climate Change (+ other change)
- ii. Conservation on Customary Land – issues options and SWOT analysis
- iii. Economics of ecosystems and biodiversity – ecosystem services, sustainable financing, biodiversity offsets (ecological footprints)
- iv. Capacity Building, Knowledge Management and Learning
- v. Pacific Plan?
- vi. New MDGs will be developed in 2013 – good to see what issues that the Pacific can flag to be included – Environment Organisations meet with Development Partners

24. CELEBRATION OF KEY ACHIEVEMENTS: The conference should include successes in governance, leadership, ecosystem services and provide opportunities for initiatives such as Micronesia Challenge, Oceanscape /PIROP, Phoenix Island Protected Area (PIPA), Cook Islands Marine Park, LMMA and CTI.

25. HIGH LEVEL MINISTERIAL EVENT: To explore possibly convening a Minister's meeting to discuss protected areas, resource allocation to support sustainable programmes, links between major government commitments and actions on the ground. This to include draw out hard questions that need to be addressed, champions for specific themes. This will have to be discussed with the host government to facilitate invitation.

26. DONOR ENGAGEMENT: The forum discussed how we can facilitate donor in the next conference to discuss long-term funding mechanisms, assess strengths and weaknesses of current conservation funding arrangements and develop some forward looking strategies./

27. PRE-CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES: The following were agreed as important activities as conference preparations:

- (i) Develop a conference communication strategy
- (ii) Synthesis of lessons learned and best management practices in areas such as ecosystem based management, climate change and others
- (iii) Case studies such as management of beech-de-mer
- (iv) Draw up a clear Terms of Reference for Host government

28. TIME TABLE: The following were proposed as important dates:

Conference Date:	November 2013
Funding Secured:	December 2012
Key Reviews/scoping TORs:	July 2012

29. OTHER BUSINESSES: The chair presented new requests for membership and it was unanimously accepted that Green Peace Pacific and GIZ Pacific to be accepted as new members. Econesians will explore membership in the future. A special note was made of the Conservation International concern for the roundtable to provide annual finance and activity reports.

30. CLOSING: The chair thanked SPREP for preparing the conference paper and that they will be the lead organisation in the conference preparation with support from the coordinator. A special thanks to Mr Jope Davetanivalu, Fiji Director for Environment representing the Fiji government who is currently being approached to host and with that the meeting was adjourned.