



## MEETING OUTCOMES

16<sup>th</sup> Pacific Island Nature Conservation Annual Meeting  
Veitiri Conference Room  
13<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> August, 2013  
Suva, Fiji

Theme: *Natural Solutions: Building Resilient for a Changing Pacific*  
Preparatory Meeting for the 9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

### INTRODUCTION:

1. The 16<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Annual Meeting was convened in Suva, Fiji from 13<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> August and the meeting as an extraordinary annual meeting to specifically prepare for the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas to discuss and make decisions on PIRT support to the conference. The 2 day meeting objectives were to:-
  - i. Provide PIRT members and partners an update of the conference update in relation to conference agenda, support by the Fijian Government on conference logistics, special events such as environmental awards and high level meeting.
  - ii. PIRT members and partners to make decisions on the following PIRT related agendas; (i) selection process of new chair, (ii) hosting of PIRT secretariat, (iii) annual membership sponsorship, (iv) PIRT annual meetings and (iv) role of PIRT in the next conference.
  - iii. Discuss and agree PIRT's support role on the conference such as; (i) facilitation of plenary sessions, (ii) conference special events, (iii) process of hosting side events, (iv) supporting governments in preparations of their conservation commitments, (v) conference communication support, (vi) administration support and (vii) displays of members work.

### MEETING MINUTES

#### a. Welcome and PIRT Update

2. Mr Taholo welcomed the PIRT members and thanked the participants for their continued support to the roundtable and specifically the conference preparatory team from SPREP. A special welcome to the Action Strategy consultant Mr Peter Thomas and the Culture & Biodiversity constant Dr Trisha Kehaulani Watson.
3. The chair gave some remarks on Sustainable Future of the Pacific as part of regional process to engage leaders such as MSG and the new Pacific Development Forum with the 10-point plan to guide actions to achieve green blue economy.

4. The Coordinator presented PIRT activities and update which included the update from the 2012 meeting in the Solomon Islands, support to Fiji as conference host, support to the focal country NBSAPs and the roundtable ADB-CTPacific Learning and Best Practice component. The PIRT support role to the conference included support to Fiji government and SPREP.

#### **b. PIRT Business**

5. **Selection on new chair:** SPREP presented the criteria of PIRT chair (attached). It was agreed for PIRT members to send nominations SPREP contact point Mrs Easter Gulavao [easterg@sprep.org](mailto:easterg@sprep.org) by end of September. The chair also emphasised the need to ensure the chair has the support and PIRT members consensus before the conference and a transparent process.
6. **Coordinators Role:** SPREP has offered to host the coordinator in the next 5 years after the conference. It was agreed that resources are needed to ensure the coordinator can carry out their functions. It was also raised the need to look at the broader role of PIRT in the light of the coordinator's role and that is to mainstream conservation at the highest level. As part of the review of the Action Strategy, the consultant will also make recommendations on the coordinators role then this will be revisited also after the chair has been decided.
7. **Members Contribution to PIRT coordination and Conference:** WCS acknowledged that they do not have funds in their current grant to contribute and it was agreed that this is voluntary and not mandatory. Contributions of \$10,000USD were confirmed by TNC, SPC and WWF who has already paid contribution to SPREP. WWF and IUCN have paid 2012 and 2013 contributions for PIRT coordination.
8. **PIRT Working Groups:** It was noted that the active working groups included Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP), Species and Protected Areas. It was acknowledged that there are adhoc groups such as the Offshore working group and initiatives such as CTI.
9. **PIRT Relevance and Annual Meetings:** The chair opened the discussion on the relevance of PIRT and it was re-affirmed that PIRT is the forum where NGOs and practitioners contribute to SPREP process and articulate issues and this is essential. A place for collaboration such as PIP for invasive species, information sharing and to look for ways to improve conservation in the region. It was also reminded that there is no such coordination mechanism exists in other regions globally. It was also discussed to explore more effective ways to engage government.
10. **Members Update:** The following members provided an update on their current programmes USP, GIZ, SPREP, WWF Pacific, WWF Fiji, WCS, Pacific Heritage Hub, SeaWeb, TNC, SPC, Birdlife International, IUCN. Due to bad skype connection Conservation International could not present their update. A presentation was also made by Professor Randy Thaman on Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity & Ecosystem Service (IPBES) on importance of linking science and traditional knowledge.

#### **c. Conference Update**

11. **Review of Status of Conservation (SOCO):** SPREP gave an update that IUCN Oceania with a consortium of organisations and consultants and has progressed well into the study and targets to be completed in December before the conference and contacts is Mr Alan Saunder at IUCN [alan.saunders@iucn.org](mailto:alan.saunders@iucn.org).
12. **Review of Action Strategy:** A presentation was made by the consultant Mr Peter Thomas and it will involve interviews with PIRT members and partners and a survey will be sent out to focal points which were agreed to during the meeting. Members are requested to please respond to filling the questionnaire to get the review and development of the draft Action Strategy completed before the conference. It was agreed that the new action strategy needs to align with existing ones such as Aichi targets and need to have measurable targets and indicators.

**13. Review of culture and biodiversity:** Dr Trish Kehaulani Watson presented the objectives of the study and that was to assess how PIRT members are integrating culture into their biodiversity programmes and the study will assess selected sites in Samoa, Fiji and Solomon Islands.

**14. Conference agenda:** SPREP presented the agenda and it agreed and agreed by members and organisers were congratulated for a good and well thought out agenda. Parallel sessions still need some adjustments. LMMA raised the issue of community session all going at the same time and to explore staggering so they don't compete too much.

**15. Fiji Government update:** Fiji Conference Coordinator presented the venue map and follow up on MoUs and service agreement. It was agreed that Suva based PIRT members will also be engaged by Fiji government to provide support in areas such as volunteers, fundraising, providing Fiji highlights with lead from PIRT coordinator.

**16. Conference Budget and contributions:** SPREP presented the conference budget and currently stands at USD\$194,000 with total SPREP contribution of USD\$69,000 with a shortfall of USD\$125,000. IUCN Oceania is currently funding the part-time PIRT Coordinator, Fiji Coordinator and another 20% IUCN staff to support the conference preparation. Confirmation of contributions from WWF and TNC of USD\$10,000 each and other organisations such as GIZ, USP and SPC will advise after discussions within their organisations.

**17. Pacific Environment Leadership Awards (PELAS):** SPREP presented the paper on the PELAS with the proposed the three focus on biodiversity, governance and climate change and awards categories on national leadership, community, ecosystem approaches to climate adaptation, science and innovation, media, champions and lifetime awards. The awards will be announced and nominations open as soon as possible by SPREP. The awards will be done during the PIRT and SPREP hosted opening cocktail on Monday evening.

**18. High Level Event:** The agenda was presented by SPREP and the theme is governance and leadership and the future we want. The goal is for the leaders to discuss 10 things to improve status of conservation and allow countries to make announcements of their conservation commitments. The participant list includes President of Palau, PM Cook Islands, PM Vanuatu, PM Solomon Islands, invited Ministers of Environment, Heads of conservation organisations, CROP heads and representatives.

**19. Side Events:** It was agreed that side events will be the responsibility of those wishing to host them and Thursday evening is a open evening to host these side events or during lunch times and after the daily sessions before the evening conference functions.

**20. Special events:** This includes conservation films evenings, displays, cultural shows, art displays and organisational and initiatives displays during the conference and more detail information will be announced on the email updates and website.

**21. Other Business:** There will be attempt to have a conference theme song and include sailing in of vakas of the Fijian traditional canoes or camakau on Sunday to bring in the conference message and these will be announced once they are finalised.

**22. Next PIRT meeting:** There will be a PIRT meeting during the conference and this will confirmed once we find the best time to convene during the conference and it is preferred to happen before or during the conference and not after. The chair adjourned the meeting with words of thanks and acknowledging IUCN Oceania for hosting the meeting and meeting the meeting cost short fall. VINAKA.

**23. Participants:**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Easter Galuvao	SPREP
Neil Walkinshaw	SPREP
Trisha Watson	CEESP/IUCN
Helen Pippard	IUCN
Patricia Mallam	WWF SPPO

Stuart Chape  
Mark Borg  
Randy Thaman  
Mere Ratunabuka  
Etika Rupeni  
Jan Stepphen  
Joana A  
Alan Saunders  
Nunia Thomas  
Jackie Thomas  
Stacy Jupiter  
Ruci M Botei  
MoanaWaq  
Alifereti K  
Paula Holand  
Taholo Kami  
Sue Taei  
Bill Raynor

SPREP  
SPREP  
USP  
Pacific Heritage Hub  
PIRT/IUCN  
GIZ  
GIZ  
IUCN  
Nature Fiji  
WWF  
WCS  
IUCN  
Econesian  
USP Wantok  
SPC/SOPAC  
USP  
CI-skype  
TNC

**AGENDA**Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> August

TIME	AGENDA	CHAIR/PRESENTER
9:00am – 9:30am	Welcome PIRT Coordination Update	Taholo Etika
9:30am – 11:30	Session 1: PIRT Business Discussion: 1. Selection of New Chair 2. Coordinator's role 3. Member's annual membership sponsorship 4. Working Groups 5. Annual Meetings 6. PIRT Members Updates	Taholo
<b>10:30</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
12:00pm – 1:00pm	<b>Session 2: Conference Updates</b> 1. Review of Status of Conservation 2. Review of Action Strategy 3. Review of integration of culture in biodiversity Pas	Taholo-chair SPREP Peter Thomas Dr Trisha Kehaulani Watson
<b>1:00pm – 2:00pm</b>	<b>LUNCH BREAK</b>	
2:00pm – 3:30pm	4. Agenda 5. Conference budget and contributions	
3:30	TEA BREAK	
4:00 – 4:30pm	6. Fiji Govt. update on logistics	Peter Sipeli
5:00pm	BREAK	
	Cocktail/Kava	
<b>WEDNESDAY 14<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST</b>		
9:00am – 10:30	<b>Session 3: Special Agenda Planning</b> 1. Opening Ceremony 2. High Level Meeting 3. Conservation Commitments 4. Awards	Taholo-chair
<b>10:30</b>	<b>TEA BREAK</b>	
11:00am	5. Working Group Reporting 6. Conservation films, concerts and art displays 7. Hosted opening cocktail by PIRT and SPREP 8. Side events	
<b>1:00pm</b>	<b>LUNCH</b>	
2:00 – 4:30pm	<b>Session 4: Other Business (tbd)</b> 1. Summary of Action Points 2. Meeting Closes	Etika Taholo

