



17th Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation Annual Meeting

Orchid Room 3, Novotel Hotel, Nadi

15 May, 2014

Meeting Report

Introduction

The 17th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation was convened in Nadi on the 15th May, 2014. The meeting objectives were to:

- i. Discuss PIRT core business which included membership, secretariat support, working groups and administrative operations of PIRT
- ii. Report back on outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference including follow up actions
- iii. Discuss and agree on process for endorsement including implementation of the Framework for nature conservation and protected areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020
- iv. Priorities and opportunities for PIRT including key events in 2014

Agenda item 1: Welcome, Introductions and Apologies

Taholo Kami, Chair of PIRT welcomed everyone to the 17th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation which was more of a planning meeting to discuss and agree on key priorities and activities for 2014. He also congratulated members and partners in particular the Government of Fiji and SPREP for hosting a successful conference.

David Sheppard, Director General of SPREP in his opening remarks thanked Taholo, Government of Fiji, PIRT members and partners for the tremendous support to the conference. He noted the Round Table (RT) as an excellent partnership mechanism and made additional points as follow:

- Reiterated the role of the RT as an important coordination mechanism biodiversity conservation in the region
- Confirmed that SPREP will allocate resources to support the RT Secretariat
- Noted that the RT Working Groups would probably work best where the work is embedded within organizations' own mandates and work plans
- Encouraged the strategic use of key meetings such as the SIDS conference, SPREP Meeting in RMI, the Ministers Meeting to advance priority activities of PIRT in particular the implementation of the new Framework and the High Level Ten Key Actions

- Suggested that the SPREP Review provides a good opportunity to integrate the Framework
- Challenged PIRT to find more effective ways to address biodiversity challenges facing the Pacific Island region

The meeting was attended by representatives from: IUCN ORO, SPREP, Birdlife International, WWF, USAID, Pacific Heritage Hub, Government of Fiji, Government of Tonga, LLMA and CI joined via skype. A full list of attendees is in *Annex 1*.

The meeting noted apologies from USP, Island Conservation, SPC, WCS, SeaWeb, GIZ and CI Fiji

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of 17th PIRT Meeting Agenda, 16th PIRT Meeting Report and Coordinator's Report

The 17th PIRT Meeting Agenda was adopted with one modification which was to include a discussion on preparations and content of the follow up high level meeting. Final adopted Agenda is in *Annex 2*

Etika Rupeni presented his summary report of PIRT meetings in the last five years and highlighted key PIRT achievements. A copy of the presentation is attached separately.

The Chair and participants of the 17th PIRT Meeting congratulated and thanked Etika Rupeni for his excellent work as Coordinator of PIRT in the last five years. The meeting adopted the 16th PIRT Meeting Report.

Agenda Item 3: Follow up high level meeting

The Chair provided a brief background on the proposed high level meeting which was announced by the Chair of the Conference at the 9th Nature Conference.

Ms. Eleni Tokaduadua, Director of Environment, Fiji briefed the meeting on status of preparations for the follow up high level meeting. She reiterated on Fiji's commitment to the high level meeting and noted challenges encountered in finalizing arrangements of the meeting. She noted the need for further work on the draft meeting agenda and requested PIRT and SPREP's assistance and guidance to develop the agenda further. Copy of the draft agenda is in *Annex 3*.

Regarding dates of the high level meeting, the 25th June - 5th July was proposed pending further confirmation from Eleni.

On the content of the meeting, the following topics were suggested in no order of priority:

- green economy (food security, energy)
- invasive alien species
- engaging communities (cross cutting)
- climate change
- private sector engagement
- engaging donor/development partners

- nature-based solutions
- oceans
- threatened and migratory species

After quite a comprehensive and substantive deliberation, the meeting agreed to:

- ✓ Hold further discussions to confirm level of participation to the meeting
- ✓ Focus on key selected priorities particularly in the context of the new Regional Framework and the Ten Key Actions
- ✓ Not have another conference
- ✓ Continue discussions on priority topics for the agenda including meeting approach
- ✓ Set up an Agenda Committee comprising of representatives of the Government of Fiji, Stuart, Easter and Mike of SPREP, Etika of IUCN, Taholo Chair of PIRT, and Sandeep. Other interested members are welcome to join the committee.

Agreed action points:

Action	To be taken up by:
Confirm as soon as possible new dates of the high level meeting	Eleni Tokaduadua
Agenda committee to develop the draft agenda further	Agenda Committee

Agenda Item 4: Report on outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

The Chair reiterated on the success of the conference and again commended and thanked everyone that contributed and participated in the conference.

The meeting noted the adoption of four main outcomes of the conference which were the Laucala Declaration, the High Level Ten Key Actions, the Framework on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020, and the launch of the first inaugural Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards. Copies of the final conference outcomes are available on the SPREP conference webpage [Pacific Nature Conference | pacific nature conference](#)

The meeting also acknowledged the substantial financial and in-kind contributions from all PIRT members in support of the conference.

Agenda item 5: PIRT core business - administrative arrangements, membership, subscription and operational matters

The meeting congratulated Taholo for taking on the Chair of PIRT for a second consecutive term and acknowledged SPREP's commitment in taking over the role of Secretariat of PIRT. The Chair reminded the meeting that in the past, the Secretariat of PIRT was always performed by SPREP until it was changed at the 8th Conference in Alotau in 2007 where IUCN was appointed as Chair and Secretariat.

On the issue of subscriptions, the Chair acknowledged and thanked CI and WWF who consistently provided financial contributions to support the Secretariat. He also acknowledged in-kind and technical support from IUCN and SPREP.

The meeting discussed possible ways and options to effectively engage members, expand membership beyond existing ones and aim to secure new members, review and find innovative ways to reinvigorate existing Working Groups including criteria for setting up new Working Groups, options for convening PIRT meetings, coordination mechanisms across and among PIRT members and partners, country limitations and capacities, coordination and links between PIRT and countries, donors and development partners.

The meeting also noted the following achievements, challenges and opportunities:

- the Pacific Invasive Partnership as an example of a working group which is fully operational and functional
- Level of coordination and working together across members and partners is increasing
- Development partners sometimes cannot provide funding but may be able to provide technical assistance
- Finance is always a challenge across all organizations
- Need to strengthen synergies between national strategies and regional/organizational strategies
- SPREP GEF6 regional invasive species project which needs a collective effort and support from PIP. This new proposed regional project is targeting a total funding amount of US\$20million to address and implement invasive alien species issues in the region
- Need to work together to provide a more coordinated approach to donor funding rather than competing for the same pool of funds

Agreed action points:

Action	To be taken by:
Update the Charter to reflect the new regional framework and circulate to members	PIRT Secretariat
Encourage new members to join PIRT	Chair and Secretariat
Review, revise and update the Charter to reflect the new regional framework	PIRT Secretariat
Endorse the regional framework and sign the updated Charter	PIRT Members (current and new)
Arrange for signing of the Charter at key meeting events	PIRT Secretariat
Explore options to convene meetings of PIRT such as using skype, video conferencing, back to back meetings with regional meetings and events	PIRT Secretariat
Facilitate a process for engaging donors and development partners in the context of the regional framework	Sandeep Singh
Issue formal invitation to Fiji as chair of the conference and as a representative of Melanesian sub-region to be a core member of PIRT. Extend invitation to a representative each from Micronesia and Polynesia to be part of the PIRT core group	Chair
Organize and convene a follow up PIRT Meeting back to back with	Chair and Secretariat

the high level meeting or SPREP meeting to discuss and consider options for Working Groups and PIRT operations	
--	--

Agenda Item 6: Key priorities and events for PIRT for 2014

The Secretariat presented a list of key events taking place in 2014 that could provide a good opportunity for PIRT to launch the regional framework, convene PIRT and Working Group meetings, hold side events and other key activities. Copy of the list of events is in *Annex 4*

SPREP briefed the meeting on SPREP's Year of Natural Solutions: Island Resilience which is a two year campaign that builds on the 9th nature conference.

The meeting discussed and agreed to:

- ✓ Support Fiji Government with the follow up High Level Meeting
- ✓ Launch the regional framework as an example of a Pacific SIDS partnership at the SIDS conference. This event will be held at SPREP and coordinated by the Secretariat with input and support from Chair and PIRT members and partners
- ✓ Coordinate and deliver joint activities at the Third SIDS Conference, CBD COP12, WPC and other relevant forums including the SPREP meeting
- ✓ Reach out to non-biodiversity sectors and engage them in PIRT activities

Agenda Item 7: Process for endorsement and implementation of the regional framework for nature conservation and protected areas 2014-2020

The meeting acknowledged input received from PIRT members and partners on the final draft and requested the Secretariat to circulate the framework one more time to PIRT members and partners to verify and confirm information in the framework

The meeting agreed to:

- ✓ invite PIRT members and partners to endorse and sign the framework and noted the SPREP process for endorsing the framework by SPREP members at the upcoming 25 SPREP Meeting ; and
- ✓ include key messages from Chair of PIRT, Chair of the Conference and Director General of SPREP in the final framework document

Agenda Item 8: Other business

The meeting discussed and noted the following matters:

- ✓ Need to focus PIRT activities on the implementation of the regional framework and to put in place a robust monitoring and evaluation process
- ✓ Alignment of the framework with national priorities particularly the NBSAP process

Agenda Item 9: Closing

The Chair thanked everyone for participating in the 17th PIRT Meeting. Closing remarks were delivered by Don Stewart who thanked everyone and noted with appreciation the close collaboration among members and partners.

Meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm followed by afternoon tea.

Annex 1: List of Attendees

Name	Organization
Taholo Kami	IUCN ORO
Etika Rupeni	IUCN ORO
David Sheppard	SPREP
Stuart Chape	SPREP
Easter Galuvao	SPREP
Mike Donoghue	SPREP
Anna Bertram	SPREP
Donald Stewart	BirdLife International
Sally Bailey	WWF
Temalesi Waqainabete	Pacific Heritage Hub
Sione Tukia	Ministry of Environment, Government of Tonga
Eleni Tokaduadua	Department of Environment, Government of Fiji
Sandeep Singh	US Embassy, Suva
Leilani Duffy-Iosefa ¹	CI-Pacific Island Programme, Samoa
Alifereti Tawake	LMMA

¹ Leilani Duffy-Iosefa and Alifereti Tawake joined via skype

Annex 2: Final Meeting Agenda

TIME	AGENDA ITEM	TOPIC
9:00am - 9:30am	1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome Remarks • Introductions • Apologies
9:30am – 10:00am	2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of 17th PIRT Meeting Agenda • Adoption of the 16th PIRT Annual Meeting Report
	3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Level follow up meeting
10:00 - 10:30am	4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief Report on the outcomes of the 9th Pacific Nature Conference <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion
10:30 - 11:00		Morning Tea
10:30 - 11:00am	5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administrative arrangements, subscriptions and operational matters including handing over of PIRT Secretariat to SPREP <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion • New memberships and partnership opportunities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion
11:00 - 12:00pm	6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key priorities for 2014 including key events for PIRT <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion
12:00pm - 12:30pm	7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap for endorsement and implementation of the Regional Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2014-2020
12:30pm - 1:30pm		Lunch
1:30pm - 2:00pm	8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roadmap discussion continues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Discussion
2:00pm - 3:30pm	9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other business
3:00pm	10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing

Annex 3: Draft high level agenda

Preparatory day – PIRT only to discuss coordination of the action strategy

DAY 1: THURSDAY 15TH MAY, 2014

**Session 1: Introductory and Overview(Chair)
 9:00am to 10:30am**

- Introductory Remarks and Overview by Chair
- Presentation on the Regional Framework (SPREP)
- Presentation on the HLS Ten Key Actions (PIRT)
- Brief Overview of Key Elements of the Implementation Roadmap and Partnership Scenarios (SPREP and PIRT)

10:30am TEA BREAK

Session 2: Defining Actions and Agreements on critical gap areas

11:00am *Natural Solutions to Food Security*

Speaker:
Discussion
Actions & Agreements

11:30am **Green Economy**

Speaker:
Discussion
Actions & Agreements

12:00pm **Managing our Oceans**

Speaker:
Discussion
Action & Agreements

Ecosystem and Climate Change

Energy (GE)
Deep Sea Mining (GE)

Invasives – 30mins

Engaging communities – cross-cutting

12:30pm LUNCH

2:00pm – 4:30pm **STREAMS: Implementation & Actions**

Stream 1: Nature-based Solutions

Stream 2: Green Economy

Stream 4: Managing our Oceans

4:30pm Meeting Adjourned

FREE EVENING

DAY 3: FRIDAY 16TH MAY, 2014

Session 3: Partnerships and Implementation

9:00am Keynote Address in Donor Engagement and Partnerships

9:30am PANEL DISCUSSION:

Increasing participation & partnership with private sector

Panellists:

1. Banks
- 2.. Chamber of Commerce
3. Communications
4. Transport
5. Energy

Discussion on Actions and Partnerships

10:30am TEA BREAK

11:00am PANEL DISCUSSION: Donor Partnership

Panellists:

1. Bilateral Donors
- 2..Development Partners
3. Embassy
4. Private Foundation
5. Private Sector

Discussion on Actions and Partnerships

3:00pm TEA BREAK

3:30pm Responses on possible synergies, partnerships and commitments (governments, private sectors, regional organisations, donors, development partners)

4:30pm CLOSING

6:30pm Closing Cocktail – PIRT/SPREP/IUCN

Annex 4: List of key events in 2014

