



PIRT Secretariat: Email pirtsecretariat@sprep.org

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) Planning Meeting

Tuesday 3rd of March 2015

MACBIO/GIZ Conference Room, 76 Gordon Street, Suva

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) planning meeting was convened in Suva on the 3rd of March 2015.

The meeting was attended by: Taholo Kami (Chair, IUCN), Etika Rupeni (IUCN and LMMA), Mark O'Brien (Birdlife), Jan Steffen (GIZ), Josua Wainiqolo (SPC and PIP), Sandeep Singh (US Embassy, Suva), Rahul Chand (Environment Department Fiji Government), Stuart Chape (SPREP), Easter Galuvao (SPREP), Amanda Wheatley (SPREP), Anna Bertram (SPREP). On Skype: Sue Taei (CI), Leilani Duffy (CI), Ray Nias (IC)

Apologies were received from USP, WCS and Seaweb.

Agenda Item 1: Welcome remarks and introduction

The meeting was opened with a prayer by Etika Rupeni.

Taholo Kami, Chair of PIRT opened the meeting with his welcome remarks and highlighted the Framework for Nature Conservation for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020 as an important tool for coordinating PIRT activities. He challenged PIRT members to seriously think about ways to make the RT more energetic, relevant, and effective. Taholo suggested for the RT to discuss and consider the options of either working on thematic issues or focus on the objectives in the Framework.

Agenda Item 2: Adoption of agenda

The meeting agenda was adopted with the following amendments:

- Report and update from the Secretariat to have a quick run through the summary following the 17th PIRT meeting.
- Include a brief discussion and update on the training course 'Pacific Island Community Adaptive Co-management Course' (PICCC)
- Move agenda point 'Key priorities for 2015' forward to 10.30am



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Agenda Item 3: Report and update from the Secretariat[†]

The document with the PIRT update report was distributed beforehand which includes a summary report about actions and recommendations from the 17th PIRT meeting in 2014.

	Action to be taken	By (responsible person/organization)	Status	Comments from Meeting on 3 rd of March 2015
1	Confirm as soon as possible new dates of the high level meeting	Eleni Tokaduadua	No further progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiji Gov had originally expressed strong support to host. Suggest to the Government to move the HL meeting to next year (2016) that is, if Fiji still wants a high level meeting as a follow up to the congress. Rahul to discuss with the Minister by end April.
2	HLS Agenda committee to develop the draft agenda further	HLS Agenda Committee	No further progress	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Related to above.
3	Update the Charter to reflect the new regional framework and circulate to members	PIRT Secretariat	Completed, pending review and endorsement	<p>Membership charter was revised to reflect the new framework. Further suggested changes were directly incorporated during the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All members existing and new are invited to sign the new charter. Clarified that PIRT targets organisations that are not on the SPREP council. Suggestion to add active participation and support to the five yearly conference and one PIRT working group was agreed and added. Noted the endorsement of the framework SPREP members at the 25 SPREP meeting. Reaffirmed the objective of PIRT which is a mechanism to get



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				<p>conservation partners to work together towards national programmes of the governments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggested to remove reference to governments as members but noting that PIRT is a membership based network that is supporting national governments in their efforts. • Noted that PIRT cannot address individual county priorities but will work, with guidance of the framework, on countries collective priorities and gaps • Suggestion if possible to include in the charter the Ten HLS key actions adopted at the HLS of the 9th conference. • Noted that PIRT support to national governments is not only on the framework but also on additional priorities. • Suggested to consider including a reference to an 'exit strategy' to ensure the continuation of work and the ownership by communities – this needs to be discussed at a later stage.
4	Encourage new members to join PIRT	Chair and Secretariat	Discussed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting requested to review the list of current signed members • Noted that the private sector can be members of PIRT if they meet the requirements and commit to the principles.
5	Endorse the regional framework and sign the updated Charter	PIRT Members (current and new)	Signing of the charter - planned to take place at the 18 PIRT Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Already discussed - refer Planning Meeting Action Points matrix



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6	Arrange for signing of the Charter at key meeting events	PIRT Secretariat	To be arranged in 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as above
7	Explore options to convene meetings of PIRT such as using skype, video conferencing, back to back meetings with regional meetings and events	PIRT Secretariat	ongoing	PIRT meetings are often held back-to-back with other meetings. Noted the use of skype at the previous PIRT meetings which was found to be useful.
8	Facilitate a process for engaging donors and development partners in the context of the regional framework	Sandeep Singh	To be discussed further in the lead up to the 18 PIRT Annual Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hasn't worked on this yet as this is connected to the high level section. • It was suggested to bring this up again at the next PIRT Meeting.
9	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	Chair		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agreed that Fiji as Chair of the conference could represent other countries as member of PIRT.



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	and Polynesia to be part of the PIRT core group			
10	Organize and convene a follow up PIRT Meeting back to back with the high level meeting or SPREP meeting to discuss and consider options for Working Groups and PIRT operations	Chair and Secretariat	To be discussed as part of preparations for the 18 PIRT Annual Meeting 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Will be discussed more in detail later on in the agenda.
11	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	Chair	SPREP endorsement completed, others pending	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Framework was endorsed at the 25th SPREP meeting in 2014.
12	Include key messages from Chair of PIRT, Chair of the Conference and Director General of SPREP in the final	Chair and Secretariat	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Completed.



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	framework document			
13	Need to focus PIRT activities on the implementation of the regional framework and to put in place a robust monitoring and evaluation process		To be discussed further for 2015 work plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For discussion today.
14	Align the framework with national priorities particularly the NBSAP process	SPREP-PIRT Secretariat	Work in progress through SPREP's support on NBSAPs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integrated into SPREPs activities.
15	Create PIRT listserv and email address	Secretariat	Completed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Would be nice to receive feedback that emails are received. Please use the PIRT secretariat if you want to share information with the roundtable.

Please promote the framework, hardcopies where send out and a copy is available on the USB Stick.



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Agenda Item 4: PIRT Membership charter

The draft revised PIRT membership charter was reviewed and updated with comments received at the meeting. The updated PIRT membership charter will be finalized for signing at the 18 PIRT Meeting in July.

The meeting noted the the following members who were signatories to the previous PIRT Membership Charter:

- 1) Conservation International (CI)
- 2) Bird Life
- 3) Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI)
- 4) International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- 5) Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA)
- 6) RARE
- 7) Seaweb
- 8) Secretariat if the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP)
- 9) Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
- 10) The Nature Conservancy (TNC)
- 11) The University if the South Pacific (USP)
- 12) Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS)
- 13) World Wildlife Fund (WWF)

The following suggestions were noted:

- The membership of SOPAC will change to the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC).
- The Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Island conservation expressed their interest to sign the charter.
- Need to get confirmation on new contacts for RARE, USP and the Heritage Hub as there have been recent changes to the main contacts for PIRT in these organizations
- Next step is to renew all memberships by signing the new charter which includes new members that have expressed interests to sign the charter.

PIRT Subscription fees

- It was discussed that the 5 year work plan and budget would include essential activities that need to be done.
- A contribution from each member between US\$5,000 and US\$10,000 was proposed. This contribution could be either financial, technical assistance and/or in-kind support



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- PIRT members can decide to pay the amount directly to the Secretariat, or fund country and community participants to the round table meetings/events.
- Conservation International stated that they would be happy to invest annually to support events such as a side event at SPREP meeting e.g. focus on Aichi Targets and the Protected Areas and how countries are tracking to meet these massive targets.
- The Secretariat was requested to prepare a work plan and budget to show financial requirements between now and 2020.

Framework presentation – Stuart

A brief presentation was delivered by Stuart on the Framework. RT members were encouraged to use the Framework as a planning tool to guide implementation at regional, national and local levels.

Agenda Item 5: Key priorities for 2015

The meeting noted the following key events that will be taking place in 2015:

- 1) Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) Meeting, 14-16 April in Suva
- 2) Species Forum, 6-8 July in Suva - last one was held 3 years ago. The Forum aims at raising the profile of species priorities to governments and partners
- 3) 18th PIRT meeting, 9-10 July in Suva following the Species Forum
- 4) SPREP meeting, 22 - 25 September, Samoa - including a potential PIRT side event (as proposed by Sue CI)

The meeting also noted the following key points and suggestions:

- CI's suggestion for PIRT to have a side event at the SPREP meeting to raise the profile and work of the PIRT. Also to get involved at the 1st regional meeting on high seas - Biodiversity beyond jurisdictions - lead by PIFS and the marine sector working group – PIRT could engaged with the protected area discussion on high seas with an regional view. This is an opportunity for PIRT to be involved and work across sectors.
- SPREPs year of the Whale in 2016 would be useful to highlight what has been achieved and also the work that still needs to be done. PIRT can support and engage in this.
- IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 in Hawaii which would provide an excellent opportunity for PIRT to organize a joint activity at the congress.



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- More detailed discussion on this at the PIRT meeting.
- A suggestion to develop a Communication Strategy to support the Framework and promote regional key messages and priorities. To assist with work on communication, a suggestion was made to form a small group consisting of communication personnel from RT members to discuss specific communication activities that would support the RT and the Framework
- Develop a Calendar of events for PIRT which could be used as an information and planning tool.
- Design a matrix with PIRT/framework objectives and a column where partners can add what they would do to achieve these objectives.
 - It was mentioned that it would be helpful to get some guidance from PIRT Secretariat on how they will be monitoring the Framework and how partners are participating and contributing to the framework
- Agreed to move the PIRT website from the IUCN website to the SPREP website.

Agenda Item 6: Preparations for the 18th PIRT Meeting

Noted the following agreed actions:

- IUCN's offer to help with the venue
- link the PIRT meeting with the Species forum in July
- An agenda working group for the 18th PIRT meeting was established which consisted of: Sandeep (US Embassy), Rahul (Fiji Government), Etika and Helen (IUCN), Leilani (CI) and Easter (SPREP).

Agenda Item 7: Process for revitalizing PIRT Working Groups

The meeting considered issues concerning the Working Groups and ways to reinvigorate them noted that this issue always come up every few years.

- The experience of PIP was shared by Josua who is the Chair of PIP who noted the following:
 - PIP members are passionate and travel to the countries of their own initiative. They generate and develop practical agenda items which show the strength of this collaborative group and its partners.
 - Agreed in the value in linking biosecurity and PAs etc.
 - PIP also has high level champions (eg. president of Palau).
 - Reaffirmed that PIP would exist even without PIRT



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- A question was raised on whether to continue to build WGs based on themes, or whether there are other ideas on how to make WG more successful. Suggestions made included:
 - Groups on Objectives of Framework or Aichi Targets.
 - Some WG could exist only for a certain event or purpose as they are needed and get dissolved after they fulfilled their part for a certain time.
 - PAWG now has a set of purposes and funding driven by BIOPAMA plus potentially a key PIRT event at the SPREP meeting to showcase and highlight gaps in countries PA against Aichi Targets. Also, has access to using new tools to assist this including discussion forum, data and resource (PIPAP).
 - There has been interest to set up new WGs – Traditional Knowledge elements of the Framework.
- A suggestion was made to have an online virtual forum where different working groups could discuss topics online and it could be open to other WG and countries. Highlighted that options to support this will be developed through the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal (PIPAP) with the support of BIOPAMA.
- For the WGs to work and be more effective and functional, it has to be relevant and add value to the organization's own respective work
- It was agreed to request the WGs to indicate their intentions to continue or not and confirm at the 18 PIRT meeting.
 - A guideline should be developed for WGs

Agenda Item 8: Other business

Pacific Island Community Adaptive Co-management Course (PICCC)

Jan Steffen of GIZ provided a brief overview of the PICCC and highlighted the following issues:

- This course started a long time ago and was a powerful group of alumni who restarted it again. Despite USP support in the past, this may not always be available in the future. The challenge is to have funds available to sustain this course in the future
- PIRT input would be welcomed for the future both on development of the curriculum and financial support. Options and opportunities to support a course alumni including ideas for possible work experience and mentoring with PIRT partner organisations.
- Birdlife mentioned that they would be keen on community capacity development.
- It was suggested to have an open session on this for the July meeting and it should be referred to the PAWG to look into the issues discussed.



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Agenda Item 9: Closing

Skype participants passed on their thanks for the possibility to participate via Skype.

The meeting was closed by the chair.

Agreed Action Points from the meeting

	Action to be taken	By (responsible person/organization)	Status
I	PIRT Membership		
1	Update membership charter and incorporate comments suggested at the meeting	PIRT Secretarial	Changes have been incorporated. See revised version
2	PIRT current and new members to confirm signing of the PIRT Membership Agreement at the 18PIRT Meeting in July	PIRT Members	
3	Prepare an estimated budget of the PIRT financial outlook for 2015 to 2020. Proposed a membership fee from US\$5,000.00 – 10,000.00	PIRT Secretariat	
4	Members to confirm type of contributions that could be provided to support the RT particularly the PIRT Annual Meetings	PIRT Members	CI indicated targeted support to the Secretariat. IUCN indicated that it could contribute between US\$5,000 - US\$10,000 a year either in cash, Travel Assistance, sponsorship etc
II	PIRT Working Groups		
5	Inform current and new Working Groups to review and confirm their mandates,	PIRT Secretariat and Working Groups	



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	TORs and memberships and submit to the PIRT Management Group for consideration at the 18PIRT Meeting in July		
6	Suggest for the Pacific Islands Co-adaptive Co-management Course to be referred to the PAWG for inclusion in their work plan	Protected Area Working Group	This matter was raised at the PAWG meeting on the 4th March, 2015
7	The second Species Forum will be integrated as an activity of PIRT and led by the Species Working Group	Species Working Group	
8	Suggestion to PIP to look into ways to address invasive species and biosecurity issues together	PIP	
III	PIRT Annual Meeting		
9	Save the dates for the 18 PIRT meeting from 6 and 7 of July preceding the Species Forum	PIRT Secretarial	<u>Note:</u> Species Forum now moved to 6-8 July followed by the 18 PIRT Annual Meeting on the 9-10 July in Fiji
10	Prepare draft agenda for 18 th PIRT meeting Suggestions for possible discussion topics: - Special side session to talk about IUCN Conservation Congress as most organisations will have plans for Hawaii. - Session on WG revitalizing and guideline development for WGs - Session on PICCC in July	Drafting group: Sandeep, Rahul, IUCN – Etika and Helen, SPREP, PIRT Secretariat, CI - Leilani	Initial discussions were held on Thursday 5th March (Etika and Easter)
11	Facilitate a process for engaging donors and development partners in the context of the regional framework	Sandeep Singh with the assistance of Jan Steffen, Etika and Easter	
12	Prepare and circulate a list of possible priorities and events for PIRT for its 2015 workplan	PIRT Secretarial	



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IV	High Level Meeting		
13	Follow up and check with Fiji government on the high level meeting and suggest to consider postponing it to 2016)	Rahul	
V	Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific islands region 2014-2020		
14	Design a matrix with Framework objectives and a column and circulate to members and partners to add in what they could do to achieve relevant objectives	PIRT Secretariat and Members	
VI	PIRT Events		
15	Explore possibilities of a PIRT side event on Protected Areas at the 26 SPREP Meeting September 2015 and/or at the Pacific Environment Forum	PIRT Secretariat and PAWG	This proposal was referred to the Protected Area Working Group
16	Identify ways for PIRT to support the SPREP year of the Whale 2016-2017	PIRT Species Working Group	
17	Start planning PIRT engagement at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in Hawaii	IUCN ORO to lead coordination	
VII	PIRT Communication		
18	Invite interested members to form a Communication Team to prepare, organize and deliver a communication strategy for the Framework and PIRT	PIRT Members - volunteers (could consist of communication officers from member organizations)	
19	Develop and maintain a PIRT website as part of the SPREP website and look at ways to have an interactive e-forum on the Pacific Island Protected Areas Portal (PIPAP) for PIRT members	PIRT Secretariat	



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20	Create a calendar of events of partners plus the PIRT	PIRT Secretariat	
VIII	Preparations for the 18PIRT Meeting		
21	Convene a meeting of the Agenda Committee and the Development partners dialogue in the margins of the PIP meeting in April	PIRT Agenda Committee and Development Partners task team led by Sandeep	
IX	List of key events/meetings for 2015		
22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PIP Meeting, 14-16 April, Suva • Species forum, 6-8 July, Suva • 18th PIRT meeting, ,9-10 July, Suva • SPREP meeting, 22 - 25 September, Samoa 	PIRT Members and partners	



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Annex:

Meeting Agenda:

Time	Agenda item	Objective
9:00am - 9:15am	Welcome remarks and introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief remarks from the Chair Introductions and brief remarks from representatives of organizations present Note apologies received
9:15am - 9:30am	Adoption of agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note comments and proposed changes to the agenda Adopt meeting agenda
9:30am - 10:00am	Report and update from the Secretariat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Update on actions and recommendations from the 17 PIRT Annual Meeting Note achievements and lessons learnt
10:00am - 10:30am	Morning tea break	
10:30am - 11:00am	PIRT Membership charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review and endorse proposed changes to the Membership Charter Discuss and agree on process for signing the Membership Charter
11:00am - 12:00pm	Key priorities for 2015	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss and agree on priority activities for PIRT for 2015 to support implementation of the new Framework including options and opportunities to implement these
12:00pm - 1:00pm	Lunch break	
1:00pm - 2:00pm	Preparations for the 18 PIRT Annual Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Discuss the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> meeting logistics which includes dates and location; content which includes theme, programme and parallel sessions; and set up PIRT sub-committees to work on logistics and content
2:00pm - 3:00pm	Process for revitalizing PIRT Working Groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Brief updates from the working groups Look at what is working well, lessons learnt and identify ways to revitalize the working groups to support the new Framework Note interests expressed from members to set up new working groups
3:00pm - 3:30pm	Afternoon tea break	



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3:30pm - 4:00pm	Other business	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• High level meeting• IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016 in Hawaii
4:00pm - 4:15pm	Closing	Closing remarks from the Chair