



18th Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation Annual Meeting

9-10 July 2015 – Suva, Fiji

Meeting Report



9-10 July, 2015

USP Lower Campus, Suva, Fiji

Theme: "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development"

Acronyms

| | |
|---------|--|
| ABNJ | Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction |
| BBNJ | Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction |
| BioRAPs | Biodiversity Rapid Assessments |
| CBA | Cost-benefit Analysis |
| CBD | Convention on Biological Diversity |
| CHICCAP | Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Programme |
| CI | Conservation International |
| CITES | Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species |
| EbA | Ecosystem based Adaptation |
| EIA | Environment Impact Assessment |
| ELWG | Environmental Law Working Group |
| HOO | Heads of Roundtable Organisations |
| IUCN | International Union for the Conservation of Nature |
| LMMA | Locally Managed Marine Areas |
| MACBIO | Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in the Pacific Islands Countries and Atolls |
| MDGs | Millennium Development Goals |
| NBSAP | National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan |
| PA | Protected Area |
| PaNEL | Pacific Network on Environmental Law |
| POA | Pacific Oceans Alliance |
| PAWG | Protected Areas Working Group |
| PES | Payments for Ecosystem Services |
| PISF | Pacific Islands Species Forum |
| PIFS | Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat |
| PIP | Pacific Invasives Partnership |
| PNA | Parties to the Nauru Agreement |
| PIRT | Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation |
| SCBO | Society for Conservation Biology (Oceania) Inc. |
| SWG | Species Working Group |
| SDGs | Sustainable Development Goals |
| SIDS | Small Island Developing States |
| SPC | Secretariat of the Pacific Community |
| SPREP | Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme |
| TNC | The Nature Conservancy |
| UNCCD | United Nations Convention on Combating Desertification |
| UNDP | United Nations Development Programme |
| UNESCAP | United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific |
| USP | University of the South Pacific |
| WCS | Wildlife Conservation Society |
| WCPFC | Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Council |
| WG | Working Group (of the Roundtable) |
| WWF | Worldwide Fund for Nature |

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I. Meeting Outcomes

18th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation

9-10 July, 2015

USP Lower Campus, Suva, Fiji

Theme: "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development"

Meeting Outcomes

The Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation (PIRT) was established in 1997 as a coalition of nature conservation and development organizations, governments, inter-government, donor agencies and community groups created to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Island Region. It was formed at the request of Pacific Island countries and territories. The forum enables 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 Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014-2020 (the Framework), which was adopted at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in Suva, Fiji in December 2013. It was subsequently endorsed at the 25th SPREP Meeting in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, in September, 2014.

The 18th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation held on the 9 - 10 July, 2015 at the University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji focused its discussions on the implementation of the Framework. The meeting adopted the theme "Biodiversity for Sustainable Development" to assess and explore linkages to, and implications of the new proposed post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals on biodiversity conservation in the context of the Framework.

The 18th PIRT Meeting noted that:

- There has been a shift over time regarding the models of conservation that are being promoted in the region. Current models are potentially more sustainable as they involve communities more fully in all aspects of planning and implementation, for example, the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and some of the forest conservation initiatives in Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea (PNG).
- In the past, we used to look outside the region for models to inspire our conservation thinking and actions, but now the world is looking to the Pacific, for example, the Micronesia Challenge, shark sanctuaries such as in the Marshall Islands, large national Marine Protected Areas, the introduction of best practice such as the Green Fee in Palau and the eradication and management of invasive species on small islands.
- We are challenged by the historic and continued loss of species and biodiversity in our region, especially our birdlife, land snails, and agricultural diversity, particularly traditional food plant

cultivars, the backbone of island food and livelihood security. In our region the relationships of most Pacific peoples with biodiversity is an integral part of their sense of place and culture.

- Working at the community level provides an opportunity to deliver on global biodiversity targets as well as strengthening relationships with local communities and building synergies between traditional knowledge of indigenous people and local communities¹ and modern science as a basis for sustainable biodiversity conservation, for the benefit of both people and nature.
- There are good opportunities for financing biodiversity conservation in our region. For example, there is a significant opportunity for funding local communities through the UNDP Global Environment Facility (GEF) Small Grants Programme, particularly for building their capacity and tackling biodiversity loss.
- Unsustainable economic development have gravely threatened community-based conservation, but many Pacific island governments are now in a position to work with communities to develop a more ecologically, culturally and economically sustainable future.
- The Pacific is well ahead of much of the rest of the world and could be a global leader, especially on environmental and biodiversity conservation issues through the good linkages between communities and government and conservation entities. Support towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is more than just funding; it's also about leadership, measurable impacts, partnerships and engagement with communities and governments at local, regional and national level.

However, despite our efforts, the meeting also noted that:

- Despite our various efforts, biodiversity continues to decline and threats are increasing, for example, the introduction and spread of new Invasive Alien Species (IAS), coral diseases, increasing monoculture in agriculture, loss of traditional knowledge and the increasing negative impacts of climate change and natural disasters, among others.
- The impacts of IAS and diseases are greatest on islands and go beyond biological impacts, with far reaching and unanticipated ecological, economic and social costs and consequences; and immediate action is needed to prevent the introduction and spread and to eradicate and manage both existing and new IAS in our islands. Although there are significant achievement in biosecurity and the management of IAS there is still a critical need for IAS assessments and biosecurity plans as part of all major developments and conservation initiatives at the regional, national and local levels.
- There is significant work being done at the community and national level, led by PIRT members, other conservation actors, communities and by government to address the loss of biodiversity. We should

¹ CBD definition

explore other mechanisms outside of the PIRT forum to raise and elevate the profile of conservation issues, targeting the private sectors, development sectors, and policy and decision makers.

- Human well-being and sustainable livelihoods must be at the heart of our work – human welfare depends on biodiversity and the ecosystem services it provides. We need to look for ways to “shape nature” and use natural solutions to ensure sustainable “blue-green” development and prosperity in the Pacific.
- Recognition of and respect for the use of customary laws and leadership has shown to be an important foundation for community based resource management and conservation.
- There is a need to more explicitly link impacts from development and biodiversity loss and strengthen private sector partnerships through Blue-Green Growth, for example, in Fiji and PNG where conservation NGOs are taking the lead in this. Critical to this is the need to strengthen the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) legislation and implementation as a foundation for real “blue-green” development. Could there be a role for PIRT members to help take this forward?
- The Framework brings together the global, national and local conservation priorities. PIRT members should look at specific activities that they can implement, through strengthened partnerships, to support implementation of the Framework.

The meeting noted the following specific actions for PIRT:

- Assess if there is a role for PIRT to address protected areas outside national jurisdictions.
- Identify and put in place mechanisms to enable the different PIRT working groups to integrate their work better.
- Explore ways to better link biodiversity and climate change adaptation such as through: input to the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR), policy formulation such as in Joint National Action Plans (JNAPs) and National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plans (NBSAPs), Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) project implementation, promoting synergies between ILK and modern science, discussions on acidification and the breakdown of bio-calcification in our oceans and other potential opportunities that may arise.
- Raise the profile of the importance of species focused work at all levels, for example, integration of species into protected area management.
- Focus on strategies that empower communities and build synergies between traditional knowledge of indigenous people and local community and science as a basis for decision making.

- Discuss and agree on the use and application of the term 'traditional knowledge' in the context of the Pacific islands taking into account the definitions that are already set and used by the CBD as well as those proposed by the Inter-governmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES)
- Assess and explore appropriate and effective ways to facilitate the transfer of ILK to younger generations.
- Develop strategies for up-scaling EbA in the region and ensure an enabling environment is provided to support integration at the policy and project levels.
- Strengthen synergies and linkages between NBSAPs and the Framework and provide policy and technical support to assist countries with implementation.
- Strengthen capacities at all levels in Monitoring and Reporting on the Framework and NBSAPs including a better assessment of the effectiveness of current conservation efforts at all levels (for example, through the Status of Conservation in Oceania (SOCO)).

In implementing our activities, we, PIRT members, aspire to:

- Do what we are doing well, better
- Carry on and step up our efforts to mainstream biodiversity conservation in climate change and disaster risk management
- Step up our efforts to address biodiversity and ecosystem services, especially threatened species, replicate case studies of improving collaborations (for example in Choiseul) and co-management through partnerships and development, and showcase best practices in the region to maximise our synergies and impact.
- Implement simple, achievable actions and aspirational strategies. It is better to achieve at a modest but significant level of success than to be too ambitious and fail.
- Develop practical solutions that provide for and strengthen pre-existing cultural relationships between people and place (i.e. their biodiversity). Simple achievable actions should be our aspirational aim.
- Find ways to support Pacific Island Countries and Territories to achieve the SDGs, while addressing the current gaps in the SDGs, for example, the lack of reference to the value of biodiversity, protected area targets or indigenous and local knowledge for biodiversity.
- Provide support to strengthen the relationship between PIRT members, governments and local communities in achieving conservation goals and priorities.

- Replicate successful examples of sustainable financing for biodiversity conservation such as the Micronesia Conservation Trust, which was established in 2002, with diverse funders and partners, and houses the Micronesia Challenge endowment, currently at 18 million US Dollars and the Sovi Basin Trust (Fiji) which aimed to provide a transparent institution to which donors may contribute funds for biodiversity conservation in the Sovi Basin, an area of high biodiversity value for Fiji.
- Focus efforts on how to better utilise sustainable financing options, for example, through partnerships and consortia or other working group initiatives, to access funding to address regional sustainable management of biodiversity, such as coastal fisheries, beche-de-mer, agricultural diversity and others.

II. Introduction

The 18th Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) annual meeting was convened on the 9th - 10th July, 2015 in Suva, Fiji at the University of the South Pacific (USP) Lower Campus. The meeting was organized by SPREP as the PIRT Secretariat and supported by IUCN Oceania as Chair of PIRT. The meeting venue was provided by USP as part of its contribution to PIRT and was hosted by the Government of Fiji who chaired the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, December 2013.

This report reflects the key outcomes of the 18th PIRT annual meeting and is provided for the information and follow up action by PIRT members and partners.

The final agenda for the meeting is in Annex 1.

Meeting Objectives

The objectives of the 18th PIRT annual meeting were to:

1. Discuss and agree on strategies and opportunities to strengthen PIRT as a mechanism to facilitate, coordinate, monitor and report on the implementation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020;
2. Identify and discuss practical, strategic and innovative solutions to address critical and emerging conservation issues;
3. Establish and strengthen partnerships, cooperation and collaboration with key partners, stakeholders and across PIRT members; and
4. Facilitate the sharing of lessons learnt, experiences and ideas including opportunities for new initiatives to support conservation efforts in the Pacific Islands region.

Participants

Over 50 participants attended the meeting from PIRT member organizations, partners and governments. The final list of participants is in Annex 2.

III. Meeting Record

Day 1, Thursday 9 July 2015

3.1 Official Opening

The 18th Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation annual meeting (PIRT-18) was officially opened with a prayer by Clark Peteru of SPREP.

3.1.1 Welcome and opening remarks

Taholo Kami, Chair of PIRT and Director of IUCN Oceania delivered the welcome and opening remarks. He acknowledged the drivers that linked the Nature Conservation Framework to work being done by organisations in conservation. He pointed out that leadership in the region were asking the following questions:

- How can we manage our resources better?
- What can organisations do to guide the direction/change and make things happen?
- How do we shape nature-based solutions to meet regional sustainable development priorities?

He further pointed out that we had a better opportunity now within our regional partnerships to achieve the objectives of the Framework and that he was looking forward to exciting partnerships as we reviewed the Framework and looked at the next couple of years of nature conservation in our region.

3.1.2 Keynote address

Keynote address was delivered by the Chief Guest, Elizabeth Erasito – Director of the National Trust of Fiji.

Ms. Erasito pointed out that the highest priority biodiversity sites in the Pacific were mostly within indigenous lands, that these lands had extraordinary value in terms of their beauty, the ecosystem services they sustain and the biodiversity they support. She stressed that our indigenous cultures were strongly dependent on natural ecosystems for their livelihoods so keeping these landscapes intact was necessary to keeping indigenous cultures intact. Ms. Erasito called on the meeting to remind ourselves of the vast wealth of traditional knowledge held by indigenous communities which could make a major contribution towards justifying biodiversity conservation in economic terms, and highlighted that the well-being and aspirations of our peoples and biodiversity conservation were inextricably linked and therefore could not be looked at in isolation as both were vital components of national and regional conservation strategies. Copy of the keynote address is in Annex 3.

3.1.3 Thank you remarks

Stuart Chape of SPREP thanked the Chief Guest and acknowledged Ms. Elizabeth Erasito's significant contribution to conservation and he also applauded Fiji in its successes in nature conservation, especially as Chair of the Nature Conference for the next 5 years. He called on members of PIRT to champion the implementation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas which was the main guiding

document that would provide the strategic direction for nature conservation and protected area in the Pacific Islands region over the next 5 years.

4. Setting the Scene

The main objective of this introductory session was to familiarize participants with the objectives, outcomes and structure of the meeting; set the scene in terms of update progress reports from the Chair of PIRT and chairs of the three Roundtable working groups; and introduced a newly established PIRT working group on environmental law.

4.1 Overall meeting objectives, outcomes and structure of the meeting

Easter Galuvao (SPREP/PIRT Secretariat) gave a brief overview of the meeting objectives and the structure of the agenda for both days of the meeting. She stressed that the main focus of the meeting was to track the implementation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and reiterated on the importance of the annual PIRT meetings to identify and discuss critical and emerging issues especially those that were not captured at the time the Framework was drafted; and that the Roundtable was the appropriate forum to discuss key conservation issues, share experiences and information, and look for innovative and practical ways to implement activities to meet the objectives of the Framework.

4.2 PIRT Chair's Report - Highlights, Key achievements and progress since the 17th PIRT Meeting.

Taholo Kami pointed out that there have been some good progress made with the work of the PIRT Working Groups (PIP, PAWG, SWG) and that there were key successful joint events carried out since the 2013 nature conservation conference, such as at the World Parks Congress, the inclusion of invasive species in the PIF leaders Communiqué, annual PIRT meetings and at SPREPs annual meetings of officials. He highlighted issues that were currently progressing in the region such as the creation/declaration of large MPAs by some Pacific island nations and territories (Palau's whole-of-EEZ marine sanctuary, New Caledonia's 1.4 million Km² MPA), oceans issues such as LMMAs & Communities, coastal fisheries, seabed mining, PNA work on tuna and climate change and natural disasters. He pointed out that our Islands are now experiencing more 'category 5' cyclones and more destructive floods as compared to previous times. On rethinking the future, and in terms of national development, he noted that many Pacific Island Countries have been in control of their own governance and development for many years now. In relation to this point, he challenged the meeting on whether PIRT should re-engage the various sectors that were not traditionally seen as conservation sectors.

4.3 Update reports from PIRT Working Groups

4.3.1 *Update report from the Pacific Invasive Partnership (PIP)*

Prof. Randy Thaman (PIP representative) provided an update report on the work of PIP since the 17th PIRT meeting in 2014. In his report, he provided an overview of the PIP and highlighted that there are more than 30 partners and individuals that were members of the PIP as of March 2014. He noted that PIP members were implementing a variety of initiatives to eradicate invasive species – from rats to invasive iguanas, etc. He highlighted examples of the work of PIP over the period 2008-2014, one of which was an increase in technical support and capacity development to countries and territories and also provided some lessons learnt from their experience, that of joint work planning being essential. He highlighted 2015 priorities for the

PIP, one of which was to promote and build on outreach efforts and statements under the PIP Outreach Campaign. He mentioned that PIP has been advocating for the Framework on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas through various fora such as the PIFS Leaders forum to raise awareness on issues such as Biosecurity and others.

4.3.2 *Update report from the Protected Areas Working Group (PAWG)*

Amanda Wheatley (Chair of PAWG) provided an update report on the work of the PAWG, in particular the outcomes of the third working group meeting in Suva, 2-3 July. In her report, she mentioned that the objective was to bring together a group of people working around the same thematic area (Protected Areas) to share experiences and information; carry out advocacy and awareness-raising for Protected Area issues in the region; and, to implement activities under objective 3, target 11 of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. She highlighted some achievements such as the re-invigoration of the PAWG in 2015, the growth in active members and partnerships, the PAWG ToRs and PAWG Action Plan (2014-2020) which were endorsed in July 2015, the Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal and the Capacity development plan and data hub under the BIOPAMA project. She revealed the focus of the PAWG for the next five years which would be on addressing data and information gaps, capacity development, advocacy, monitoring of management effectiveness, sustainable financing, and governance of Protected Areas etc. Lastly, she put forth a request from the PAWG to the PIRT, to hold side events and displays at regional fora such as the SPREP meeting and other key global events (World Conservation Congress 2016). PAWG was also seeking support for a regional snapshot to assess how the Pacific is tracking in terms of Protected Areas and other effective conservation measures.

4.3.3 *Update report from the Species Working Group (SWG)*

Chris Filardi (SWG representative) provided an update report on the work of the SWG, specifically, the outcomes of the 2nd Pacific Islands Species Forum (PISF) held in Suva, 6-8 July. In his report, he highlighted that the PISF was the nexus between research, policy, and conservation efforts and that key discussions during the PISF were on much the same areas as in the inaugural PISF (2014) such as species conservation status; ecosystem status; progress in data management and storage, networking, opportunities for joining IUCN specialist groups, sustainable use and CITES, threats such as logging, IAS, climate change, communicating information to communities and governments and conservation actions – planning, species recovery, involving communities, traditional environmental knowledge. Chris mentioned the second PISF revealed that there was a significant number of high quality species-related studies in the region, peer-to-peer networking and exchange, there was a need to share data, research findings and management approaches, the need to better engage communities and make conservation locally relevant, opportunities for peer-to-peer learning at the community level and species-related communication strategies, for example the use of mascots and videos. Lastly, he pointed out that the PISF was the main mechanism that drives the Species Working Group, which is an excellent platform for young species conservationists/researchers to have a voice.

4.3.4 *Announcement of the new PIRT Working Group on Environmental Law (ELWG)*

Maria Muavesi (ELWG/IUCN ORO) announced in plenary her group's intention to establish itself as an Environmental Law Working Group under the auspices of PIRT. She reported that the TOR for the group had been drafted, pending further discussions and for the group to agree on its structure, and reported back during the second day of the PIRT meeting.

In the discussion, the meeting noted that:

- The PIRT process remains as an important mechanism that brings together the PIRT Working Groups to support the implementation of the objectives of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.
- There were overlaps in membership of PIRT Working Group which was a good thing as it would help to connect the objectives of the working groups through synergistic and complementary efforts.
- PIRT Working Groups should continue to report back on achievements and progress of their respective work and are encouraged to coordinate with each other, synergise and align actions with the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.

5. **Session 1: Critical and emerging issues**

5.1 Presentation and discussion on “Critical IAS and emerging biosecurity issues”

5.1.1 *Small Islands on the Front Line – Prof. Randy Thaman*

Prof. Randy Thaman of USP gave a presentation on critical environmental issues facing the small islands states and highlighted the following key points:

- need to integrate invasive species in all of our conservation work and noted close links to traditional knowledge.
- 10 emerging or intensifying issues for Pacific SIDS which were: extreme events, invasive species, overfishing of the inshore, loss of coastal littoral and mangroves, agro-deforestation and loss of agro-biodiversity, loss of tropical montane cloud forest, breakdown in biogenic calcification and biogenic sand and sediment budget, coral disease, the need to protect biodiversity cool spots (often no endemics, limited diversity but important) and the loss of indigenous and local knowledge and bio-cultural diversity. Building resilience and adapting to such challenges in a holistic manner would require building synergies between time-tested indigenous and local knowledge, technologies and adaptive strategies and the best modern science and technology.
- reference to the Satoyama-Satoumi assessment as Japan’s most important ecosystem assessment and a good example of the integration of indigenous and local knowledge and modern science.
- people had been losing knowledge of their plants and animals over the last 20 or so years with knowledge of some local species names not known any more.

5.1.2 *'Invasive' species on islands case studies*

Dr. Gilianne Brodie of USP presented on 3 brief case studies of invasive species on islands and highlighted the following key points:

- control of the Asian subterranean termite required a lot of expensive chemicals and that the community expected government to pay, an unrealistic expectation. Extracted chemicals from the plant *Abrus* was trialled as a low-cost control method for the termite and proved very successful as a lab-based trial.
- the challenges were the need for field trials, restrictions imposed by the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) and that companies were not keen to support the trials as being low cost meant that this control method was not profitable for them.
- research on the Partulid tree snails and mentioned that these snails were important for Polynesian culture and were a flagship species; however, there had been some tragic accounts of extinctions of this particular snail across the region caused by the rosy wolf snail (*Euglandina rosea*). A search was conducted for the Partulid tree snails on Fiji's Rotuma island, however no live specimens were found.
- study conducted by John Fasi of the Solomon Islands on little fire ants (*Wasmania auropunctata*) and their presence and absence in subsistence and crop gardens/systems which found that the ant influenced other pests and had destroyed the fabric of the family unit and the traditional knowledge system.

5.1.3 *The Work of Birdlife International-Pacific*

Donald Stewart of Birdlife International – Pacific gave a brief presentation on Birdlife's work and highlighted the following key points:

- Birdlife was not just a bird-watching organisation but uses birds as a key indicator/promoter for broader conservation issues.
- there were 200 critically endangered bird species worldwide with 25% here in Pacific and highlighted that the Pacific region had the highest number of critically endangered birds
- their work started small, moving from island to island to reduce invasive threat to key birds and cited an example from Fiji where they had reduced the threat to key bird species from rats, goats, cats, dogs, mongooses and the introduced Iguana
- the biggest ever eradication programme undertaken was in New Caledonia which was an immense operation involving industry and the private sector.

In the discussion, the meeting noted that:

- Sharing case studies and findings was one of the benefits of the invasive species working group (PIP)
- Conservation should consider invasive species in all the different aspects of conservation, for example within protected areas
- It is crucial and critical to work closely with local communities on large-scale eradication operations such as the New Caledonia example.

5.2 *Protected Area challenges in the Pacific*

Tony O’Keeffe of the PAWG and IUCN ORO presented on the over-arching challenges to protected areas and highlighted the following key points:

- low political/public support, will, enthusiasm and awareness of PA benefits and national governments under-investing in staff, recurrent budgets, management, enforcement of PAs and insufficient budget and attention to monitoring.
- countries report higher percentage figures and that this was represented a disconnect between national and global reporting and some countries had higher targets (i.e. – under the Micronesia Challenge) while some targeted the reality. Progress reports for many countries were incomplete and that minimal progress has been made to achieve goals and targets.
- NBSAPs were the monitoring tool but most of these had no measureable targets and indicators. Revisions to NBSAPs provides an opportunity to improve on the status quo; that evidence-based management systems were still uncommon and that site-level data were rarely collected and made available.
- PAs must progress (not regress), need to be established in the right areas, need to be effective and their quality improved, that diverse types of protected areas governance need enabling, increase capacity to address novel threats; areas conserved by private, indigenous peoples and local communities should be included.

In the discussion, the meeting noted that:

- The Fiji Department of Fisheries was establishing a working group to look into the issue of protecting deeper water areas and that coastal area conservation in Fiji was going well.
- Tonga had made protected area commitments under the MACBIO project; however, there was a lack of information to provide a baseline for monitoring and decision-making.
- Tonga had conducted a BioRAP on Vavau Island Group which was found very useful in terms of the information generated which has enabled them to recommend new sites for conservation.
- Conservation International had conducted a study focusing on the Micronesia Challenge area looking at the issue of measuring ‘effectiveness’ indicators.
- Prof. Randy Thaman’s methodology to incorporate ecosystems management into sustainable land use planning

5.3 Oceans: A brief review of emerging issues

5.3.1 *Changing Oceans – impacts of iconic species*

Mike Donoghue (SPREP) spoke about changing oceans and impacts on iconic marine species and highlighted the following key points:

- the Pacific Oceanscape was the framework for addressing current ocean-related issues faced by our region.
- reference made to the key conclusions of the first IPCC report – *the ocean has absorbed about 30% of the emitted anthropogenic carbon dioxide, causing ocean acidification* and key conclusions from the second IPCC report – *that oceans would continue to warm and acidify and that global mean sea level would continue to rise* noting that Oceania was one of the most vulnerable regions.
- a 1.5 degree temperature increase would cause severe climatic stresses on small islands, that coral mortality would increase at 2 degrees and that warming oceans could lead to changes in fish distribution, where main tuna stocks could move to the high seas/ABNJ.
- many turtle stocks in the Pacific Ocean were significantly reduced because of the traditional take of turtles and turtle eggs, habitat loss, by-catch in fisheries and the impacts of invasive species and climate change.

5.3.2 *The Pacific Ocean and Sustainable Development*

Dr. Elizabeth Brierley (PIFS) spoke about the UN Post 2015 sustainable development agenda and highlighted the following key points:

- noted SDG 14 – *Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development*. She talked about the Pacific Islands Ocean Policy Framework and the Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape.
- reference was made to regional efforts such as the creation of a trilateral Maritime Boundary Agreement between Kiribati, Nauru and the Marshall Islands in 2012, the creation of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA) in 2008 and increasing work on marine spatial planning in the region.
- clarification of the Regional Oceans Commissioner role, held by the Secretary General of PIFS (Dame Meg Taylor) which was mandated by leaders to strengthen the regional institutional framework for ocean governance and policy coordination and support provided to the Ocean Commissioner by the CROP – SPREP, SPC, FFA, PIFS and USP.
- the Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) was endorsed by Leaders under the Framework for Pacific Oceanscape to provide effective policy coordination and implementation, facilitate regional cooperation for the high seas, and support the strengthening of national ocean governance and policy processes.

In the discussion, the meeting noted that:

- There was an integrated approach to ocean management within our region with multiple agencies involved.
- The Pacific Ocean Alliance (POA) is a mechanism to coordinate regional and national efforts on oceans governance issues

6. Session 2: Breakout parallel sessions on cross cutting issues

6.1 Session Objective

The main objective of the breakout parallel sessions was to facilitate in-depth discussions on selected cross cutting topics/issues with a particular emphasis on lessons learnt, best practices and opportunities to enhance and expand implementation of the relevant objectives of the Framework at different levels.

For this session, plenary broke into four parallel breakout groups to discuss the following cross-cutting topics:

- i. **Ecosystem based Adaptation**, facilitated by Herman Timmerman, SPREP.
- ii. **Traditional knowledge, culture and community engagement**, facilitated by Adi Mere Ratunabuabua and Clark Peteru, SPREP.
- iii. **Mainstreaming conservation: the role of NBSAPs**, facilitated by Eleni Tokaduadua, Fiji Department of Environment and Easter Galuvao, SPREP.
- iv. **Green growth**, facilitated by Taholo Kami, PIRT Chair/IUCN ORO.

6.2 Breakout Parallel Sessions – Report back

Following the afternoon tea break, plenary resumed to receive the report back from the parallel sessions. Below is a summary of the main points from each of the parallel sessions.

6.2.1 Ecosystem based Adaptation

What have we learned to date?

- EbA implementation requires multiple technical inputs from a broad range of experts. For example, Foresters, ecologist, coral reefs experts and mangroves experts.
- EbA results take time, are long-term and thus maintaining community support requires a programmatic approach.
- EbA can contribute to the overall goal of increasing countries protected areas through the management and protection of the broader ecosystems and linkages to sustaining livelihoods.
- CBA is clearly a powerful decision-making tool for all governments considering which EbA actions to implement. This CBA tool can be transferred to diverse locations and circumstances in the Pacific.
- Monitoring and evaluation of EbA actions is vital to underpin the knowledge base for future investments.
- Empower local communities, build capacity and harness indigenous knowledge
- Ensure community buy-in to ensure sustainability beyond the life of the donor funding
- Ecosystem management / adaptation should include oceans
- Clearly define EbA vs. other ecosystem management approaches
- An adaptive approach can be too expensive for community based implementation, communities need to be selective in their priorities, EbA may be a cost effective alternative

Strategies for up-scaling

- Ensure the policy environment is able to support EbA approaches
- Ensure the EbA lessons learned are packaged and communicated to different audiences across the broader region.
- Find policy hooks for CBA

6.2.2 Traditional knowledge, culture and community engagement

Highlights/Achievements

- Establishment and implementation of LMMAs.
- Code of Good Practice for Conservation - PNG e.g. Old Approach vs. the New Approach.
- Recognition and Respect and use of TEK and customary Law as basis for Community-Based Resource Management and conservation laws.

Actions

- Build capacity of local communities; empower them to feel ownership of any activities.
- More community engagement, for any conservation action, learn from past mistakes.
- Process to facilitate local traditional knowledge to be transferred to the younger generation.

6.2.3 Mainstreaming conservation: the role of NBSAPs

Key Lessons:

- Establish effective national level coordinating bodies and inclusion of private sector (NBSAP Forums (Fiji), NECC (Tonga)).
- Have the NBSAP as an environment sector framework for National Development Plans.
- Fluid political and sector commitments and environment.
- Private and public sector want to see tangible results.
- Strengthen communication and engagement/partnership.
- Efficient knowledge and information management.
- Strengthen resource mobilisation and joint sector programming.

Key recommendations:

- Increase resource mobilisation for NBSAP implementation and national financing mechanisms
- How can PIRT support national capacity building such as monitoring
- Request SPREP/ to provide technical assistance in areas which countries are finding difficulties to implement such biosafety
- PIRT needs to link with the climate change roundtable process
- Link NBSAP to climate change funding sources and other sources
- Include action strategy into NBSAP

How can we link to the framework?

- The action strategy is already aligned to the Aichi Biodiversity targets

- The NBSAPs should also link to the SDGs
- Explore linking NBSAPs to CROPs strategies, funding opportunities
- How can we address common country issues at regional level?
- Reflect/Link NBSAPs to Action Strategy

6.2.4 Green growth

Main Highlights for PIRT

- The impact from the MSG declaration on Environment and Climate Change in 2013 on the Green Growth Framework. This has resulted in the Vanuatu-National Sustainable Development Plan, PNG-Strategy for Responsible and Sustainable Development with a move to provide supportive legislation to bring elements of strategy into effect and Fiji's Green growth framework launched by the PM in early 2015.
- The impact generated through PNA and tuna conservation and sustainable fisheries management. Demonstrates small islands states ability to manage their resources and effectively manage income from this resource.
- Pacific Island leaders taking global steps and leads in regard to conservation, emphasizing the Pacific in a global context, this includes as examples work done with regard to the large scale MPA's (Palau) and Shark Initiative (Fiji/Samoa).

Issues for PIRT Consideration

- Call for a Pacific definition on the word "green/blue economy". Although the elements that describe the word are already embedded in the principles of the framework, this still needs to be defined with clarity in terms of a Pacific context as it is still open to interpretation more often from a western viewpoint. The definition must capture elements of what defines Pacific people, one that is sustainable yet resilient, not separate but integrated and bring meaning in terms of our collective Pacific island cultures, knowledge and traditions.
- The need to have more strategic engagement of governments in the regional/national planning realm, especially the economic sectors affected by development and how to engage these sectors in the planning process.
- Look at ways to convene strategic discussions on Fisheries/Forestry/Mining.
- Need to bring high level partnerships across sectors and into relevant decision making discussion in the region and nationally to effectively bring about positive change.

In the following discussion, the meeting noted that:

- The environment sector could engage with the private sector and ensure meaningful discussions on green growth.
- The Blue-Green economy was a good concept which can not be achieved without a comprehensive EIA process being enforced.

- Green growth was driven by the whole environment being part of our culture and livelihood. This was the basis for the green growth concept and encouraging sustainability in the natural resources sector.
- The Green growth concept describes the pathway for continuing the whole economy into the future from an economic sense. This would then inform the political processes in the long term about viability and sustainability principles involved for economic sustainability.
- Provide guidance to leaders on sustainable economic models which could include green growth as one of the possible models
- The linkages between PIRT and the Pacific Climate Change Roundtable (PCCR) were more a logistical issue that could easily be addressed through consultations.
- Fiji and Papua New Guinea had been engaged at the policy level on the green growth pathway.

Closure of day 1:

Following the report back from the parallel sessions and discussions, day 1 of the meeting ended at 5.30pm. The Drafting Committee then met to pull together the main points from the day 1 sessions and discussions.

Day 2, Friday 10 July 2015

Recap from Day 1

Day 2 started off with a recap of the first day of the meeting outlining a brief summary of the key points from Day 1.

Following the recap, the video message from **David Sheppard, the Director General of SPREP** was screened.

7. Key conservation messages

7.1 Video message from David Sheppard - Director General of SPREP

Mr. Sheppard in his video message informed the meeting that this was his last PIRT meeting. He noted that there had been a shift over time regarding the models of conservation that have been promoted in the region noting that the current models such as LMMAs were potentially more sustainable as they involved communities rather than excluding them as was often the case in National Parks. He mentioned that in the past, the Pacific Islands used to look outside the region for models to inspire conservation thinking and actions, but now the world is looking to the Pacific for practical and successful models and initiatives, for example, the Micronesia Challenge, shark sanctuaries (Marshall Islands), large national MPAs and introduction of best practice such as Green Tax in Palau. He encouraged the meeting to continue these and intensify efforts to mainstream conservation into Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management. He highlighted the challenges faced by the region with the continued loss of species especially the birdlife, the major challenges faced by countries in relation to capacity issues and pointed out the need to increase efforts to address loss of species, replicate case studies of improving collaborations (e.g. Choiseul) through partnerships and development and showcasing of best practice in the region to maximise our synergies and

impact. He congratulated all organizations that were going to sign PIRT membership agreements and thanked the Government of Fiji for their excellent work as chair of the ninth conference in 2013 and noted that the 2013 conference was an outstanding event. He thanked Taholo Kami for his great work as the PIRT chair, for his leadership and for keeping up the energy levels sustained and moving. He thanked all the PIRT members, the Roundtable, the PIRT Working Groups, various partner organizations, governments and local communities. In closing, he wished all the participants a successful 18th PIRT annual meeting.

7.2 *Aspiration and Achievement*

Dr. Christopher Filardi (AMNH), began his presentation and highlighted the following key points:

- simple, achievable actions were needed for aspirational strategies and that it was better to achieve at a modest but significant level than to be too ambitious and fail.
- we focus on species because of their astonishing adaptations (e.g. monkey-tailed skink), or because we were losing them and didn't know why (amphibians), or because they could be proxies for global issues such as habitat loss, climate change, etc. people sometimes focused too much on the negative side of species threats and loss
- economics, colonial and post-colonial politics had gravely threatened community-based conservation and that in many Pacific island countries, e.g. the Solomon Islands, there was now the opportunity to work with communities to develop a more sustainable future, both ecologically and culturally.
- there was a need to develop practical solutions that provided for pre-existing cultural relationships between people and place and that simple achievable actions that a 5-year old could implement should be our aspirational aim.

8. **Session 3: The big picture: why conservation is critical to sustainable development**

The chair of the session (Taholo Kami) introduced the panel for this session.

8.1 *Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*

Tim Westbury (UNESCAP) presented on the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and highlighted the following key points:

- the SDGs were mandated through the Rio +20 in 2012 which established an open working group of UN members (including PNG, Palau, Nauru) to develop the 17 SDGs.
- 17 SDG goals agreed to and that the indicators were in preparation and that Goals 14 (Oceans and seas, sustainable use of marine resources) and 15 (Sustainable use and conservation of terrestrial ecosystems) were ambitious and were influenced by the CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets.
- biodiversity and ecosystem protection had dedicated goals and were mentioned across a range of targets, that there was an attempt to align the objectives of the biodiversity-related conventions (CBD, UNCCD, CITES etc.) into the SDG targets, which should help to integrate biodiversity objectives into national planning processes and strengthening political will towards biodiversity conservation.
- there was no reference to the value of biodiversity, PA targets and traditional knowledge for biodiversity in the SDGs, some habitats were omitted from mention (e.g. grasslands).

8.2 *Framework for Pacific Regionalism*

Joel Nilon (PIFS), in his presentation highlighted the following key points:

- the Framework for Pacific Regionalism has replaced the Pacific Plan as the guiding strategy for the region and it has a vision, values, objectives, priority setting, measurement of progress, tests for regional action which have been endorsed by the Leaders.
- He highlighted that the framework puts emphasis on deeper regionalism, priority setting, political oversight and inclusiveness. He revealed that the regional priority setting process provided an opportunity for individuals, communities and agencies to put forward ideas for the framework, however, he noted that the process was still in its early stages and that there was still a lot to be done to make it work in a meaningful way.
- He pointed out that a sub-committee on regionalism consisting of 8 individuals will lead the process and that they would be meeting the following week with the intention that they would put forward no more than 5 items for discussion by Leaders.
- He mentioned that there was a wide range of proposals and stakeholders

8.3 *Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020*

Stuart Chape (SPREP/PIRT Secretariat), in his presentation highlighted the following key points:

- the Framework was developed and adopted at 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, December 2013.
- the conference had traditionally developed an Action Plan, but with the increasing focus on synergies, the Action Plan had now been replaced with the Framework.
- synergies between the Framework and the CBD Aichi Targets - 6 objectives in Framework specifically linked to 20 Aichi Targets.
- the Framework indicators and monitoring linked not only to Aichi Targets, but also to NBSAPs, there were 9 principles for implementation, which was a code of conduct for all supporters and practitioners of Framework.

In the discussions, the meeting noted that:

- The Choiseul Integrated Climate Change Adaptation Programme was a good example of aspirational targets in action.
- The SDG process was ongoing until September 2015 and that related issues such as supporting PICs to achieve the SDGs, were recognized.
- Providing support to PICs to achieve the SDGs was more than just providing funding and that it was also about leadership, impacts, engagement (with communities and governments at local, regional and national level).
- The Pacific was well ahead of much of the rest of the world and could be a global leader, especially on environmental issues through that community-government linkage.

9. Session 4: Funding and financing opportunities for biodiversity conservation in the Pacific Islands

The co-chair of the session (Lupe Matoto) introduced the panel for this session.

9.1 11th European Development Fund (EDF-11)

Jesus Lavinia (EU delegation for the Pacific), in his presentation highlighted the following key points:

- 166 Million Euros was earmarked for the period 2016-2020 and the indicative programme for the Pacific aimed to: 1) improve economic, social and environmental benefits from the sustainable management of coastal and oceanic resources 2) improve management of waste and pollution, and 3) improve the capacity of Pacific island communities to manage their natural resources.
- Intra-ACP Cooperation worth 3.6 Billion Euros covered climate change, disaster resilience and environment and 130 Million Euros had been allocated towards the implementation of international commitments under CBD, CITES, Ramsar, UNCCD to reduce biodiversity loss; improve ecosystems management and improve science-based management.
- 30 Million Euros was allocated to contribute to the mainstreaming and implementation of MEA clusters – biodiversity and chemicals and waste, desertification.
- EU would only support projects that were aligned to existing strategies and frameworks in the region, that there was a preference to see consortia of agencies rather than single agency projects and evidence of alignments or synergies and cooperation between regional projects and the countries.

9.2 The Micronesia Conservation Trust

Trina Leberer's (TNC) presentation highlighted the following key points:

- the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) was established in 2002, had 8 staff members and housed the Micronesia Challenge endowment of 18 Million USD, it had a regional/international Governing board consisting of 9 members and s.
- the MCTs role focused on the areas of sustainable finance, capacity building, raising awareness and climate adaptation.
- the MCT had diverse funders and partners such as the US Departments of Interior and State, the US Fish & Wildlife / Forest Services, the US National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration, the David & Lucille Packard Foundation, PEW Charitable Trust, The Nature Conservancy and Conservation International etc.
- the MCT was the accredited implementing agency for the Climate Adaptation Fund for the Federated States of Micronesia and that its motto was: “*World Class, Deeply Micronesian*”

9.3 GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF-6)

Katarina Atalifo-Malo (UNDP-SGP), in her presentation highlighted the following key points:

- the goal of the 6th operational phase (OP6) of the SGP focused on effectively supporting the creation of global environmental benefits and safeguarding the global environment through community and local solutions.
- there were 3 key approaches for the OP6 – 1) focus on globally recognised and critical ecosystems; 2) set up institutional and financial support mechanism to increase impact at national and global level and 3) Develop Capacity of local and national civil society stakeholders.
- the SGPs strategy for Biodiversity would tackle the three principal causes of biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation—habitat loss, overexploitation, and invasive alien species; using threat reduction, such as promoting the sustainable use of ecosystems within and outside protected areas.
- the SGP has global experience working with about 20,000 community projects in more than 125 countries.

In the discussion that followed, the meeting noted that:

- EU wanted to see alignments or synergies and cooperation between regional projects and the countries under EDF-11.
- Following the completion of SGP projects, UNDP teams assessed whether government engagement had occurred to ensure sustainability of projects.
- EU intended for the PIFS to encourage stronger country and agency participation. Encourages stronger collaboration across regional institutions; through establishing trust as opposed to competition.
- Ecotourism, alternative livelihood sources, Payment for Ecosystem Services for water, marine advisory council of fishers for sustainable use of fisheries were areas where finance institutions could enable more support towards, in the MCT experience.
- There is a need to consider what PIRT as a group, could do to better utilise the sustainable financing options through partnerships and consortia or other working group initiatives (e.g. - to address the sustainable management of coastal fisheries in the region, in particular, for beche-de-mer).

10. Session 5: Mapping of activities, projects and initiatives (current and pipeline) against the objectives of the Framework

Following the plenary discussions from the previous session, the meeting broke into 3 groups to discuss and map their activities, projects and initiatives, both current and planned, against the objectives of the framework. The main objective of this session is to gather information on actions taken against each of the Framework objectives. This information will assist PIRT to set up a system to monitor and track progress towards the Framework objectives.

11. Session 6: Free flow sessions

The main objective of this session was to promote and discuss topics of interest proposed by organizations or individuals in an open, informative and interactive setting. Discussions were facilitated by the proponents of the different topics and participants were free to choose topics of interest that they wished to follow. Participants were also free to move around between topics.

There were 4 free flow sessions:

1. Marine Protected Areas in French Polynesia - *Donatien Tanret, PEW*
2. Biodiversity Rapid Assessments (BIORAPs) - *Amanda Wheatley, SPREP*
3. Oceans Issues – Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction & Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ & BBNJ) – *Michael Donoghue, SPREP and Ryan Medrana, PIFS.*
4. WWF report ‘Reviving the Ocean Economy: The Case for Action 2015’ – *Jackie Thomas, WWF Pacific.*

12. Session 7: Parallel Meetings of PIRT Groups

The main objective of this session was to provide a space for the PIRT Working Groups to reconvene and discuss operational and substantive matters to guide implementation of activities of the groups, including key priority activities for the next two years.

The Heads of Roundtable Organizations (HOO) meeting was convened parallel to the Working Group discussions.

The Working Groups reported back to plenary during session 8.

13. Session 8: A Way Forward

The chair of the session, Taholo Kami introduced the speakers for this session.

13.1 Report back from PIRT Working Groups

Protected Areas Working Group (PAWG)

Amanda Wheatley of the PAWG reported that they had a fruitful discussion and that issues were raised from their meeting last week and the last two days (PIRT) on ABNJ, tools/lessons learnt to be used in the conservation areas, also that the working group needs targeted issues to work on for the governments and also a tool such as a "Road Map". Good examples from the PICTs were shared during the discussions.

Environmental Law Working Group (ELWG/PaNEL)

BJ Kim of the ELWG reported that the working group had finally established a network called “The Pacific Network on Environmental Law (PaNEL) as the working group for the PIRT and that in moving forward they have committed themselves to increase their coordination through the PaNEL.

No additional report back was received from the Species Working Group (SWG) and the Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP).

13.2 *Adoption of overall meeting outcomes*

Vainuupo Jungblut (PIRT consultant), read out the draft meeting outcomes drawn from the discussions and sessions over the two days of the meeting by the Drafting Committee. Following this, the Chair requested the Drafting Committee to circulate the draft meeting outcomes to all PIRT members and thanked the Drafting Committee for their work on compiling the meeting outcomes.

13.3 *Next steps*

In terms of next steps the session chair, Taholo Kami pointed out that the PIRT Secretariat would circulate information on upcoming meetings and events to all PIRT members. He informed the meeting of the IUCN World conservation Congress in Hawaii in September, 2016 which would be an excellent opportunity for PIRT to participate in.

He mentioned that there was a need to engage donors in PIRT meetings and activities but would need to look into a process and options to facilitate this as part of the preparations for the next meeting PIRT meeting in 2016.

Taholo delivered brief closing statement where he acknowledged the organisers and participants for a great conference over the two days and acknowledged the role of SPREP, particularly Easter Galuvao and her team. Lastly, he informed participants of seven members who would be signing the PIRT membership agreements that same evening during the PIRT meeting closing cocktail.

MEETING CLOSED AT 5.30PM

Copies of the Meeting report, presentations and photos are available on the PIRT webpage

<https://www.sprep.org/pirt>

For all enquiries, email

pirtsecretariat@sprep.org

Annex 1: Final Meeting Agenda

| | | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|---|--|---|---|
| ANNOTATED AGENDA | | Thursday 9th July | | | |
| | 0800 | <i>Registration</i> | | | |
| | 0830 | Official opening <i>Master of Ceremony – Mason Flynn Smith, IUCN ORO</i> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Prayer - <i>Clark Peteru</i> 2. Welcome and opening remarks - <i>Taholo Kami, Chair of PIRT and Director of IUCN ORO</i> 3. Chief Guest - Keynote Address - <i>Elizabeth Erasito, Director of the Nature Trust of Fiji Islands</i> 4. Thank you remarks - <i>Stuart Chape, Director of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division, SPREP</i> | | | |
| | 0900 | Setting the Scene | | | |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Overall meeting objectives, outcomes and structure of the meeting <i>Easter Galuvao, PIRT Secretariat (5 minutes)</i> 2. Highlights of key achievements and progress since the 17th PIRT Meeting <i>Taholo Kami, PIRT Chair (10 minutes)</i> 3. Update reports from PIRT Working Groups <i>(10 minutes each)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pacific Invasive Partnership: <i>Prof. Randy Thaman</i> • Protected Area Working Group: <i>Amanda Wheatley</i> • Species Working Group: <i>Chris Filardi</i> <p>Introduction of new Working Groups</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmental Law WG: <i>Maria Muavesi</i> 4. Discussion <i>(15 minutes)</i> | | | |
| | 1000 | Morning Tea (including a group photo) | | | |
| | 1030 | Session 1 - Critical and emerging issues | | | |
| | | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.1 Presentation and discussion on "Critical IAS and emerging biosecurity issues" <i>Facilitator: Prof. Randy Thaman and the Pacific Invasive Partnership</i> <i>Speakers/presenters: (40 minutes)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Prof. Randy Thaman, USP</i> • <i>Gilianne Brodie, USP</i> • <i>Don Stewart, Birdlife International</i> <p>Discussion <i>(20 minutes)</i></p> | | | |
| | 1130 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.2 Protected area challenges in the Pacific <i>Facilitator: Protected Area Working Group</i> <i>Speakers: Tony O'Keeffe, IUCN ORO (30 minutes)</i> <p>Discussion <i>(30 minutes)</i></p> | | | |
| | 1230 | Lunch break (space for networking) | | | |
| | 1330 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.3 Oceans: A brief review of emerging issues <i>Facilitator: CI and SPREP</i> <i>Speakers: (40 minutes)</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Michael Donoghue, SPREP</i> • <i>Elizabeth Brierley, Ocean Commissioner's Office, PIFS</i> <p>Discussion <i>(20 minutes)</i></p> | | | |
| | 1430 | Session 2 - Breakout parallel sessions on cross cutting issues | | | |
| | | Ecosystem based Adaptation <i>Facilitator: Herman Timmerman, SPREP</i> | Traditional knowledge, culture and community engagement <i>Facilitators: Adi Mere Ratunabuabua and Clark Peteru</i> | Mainstreaming conservation: the role of NBSAPs <i>Facilitators: Eleni Tokaduadua, Fiji DoE and Easter Galuvao, SPREP</i> | Green growth <i>Facilitator: Taholo Kami, IUCN ORO</i> |
| | 1530 | Afternoon tea break | | | |
| | 1630 | Session 2 continues - Plenary session | | | |
| | | Report back from the breakout group sessions (10 minutes per group) | | | |
| | | <i>Discussion (20 minutes)</i> | | | |
| | 1730 | Informal Talanoa Session (Space for networking) | | | |
| | 1830 - 2130 | Opening Cocktail <i>Hosted by SPREP</i> <i>Venue: USP</i> | | | |

| Friday 10th July | |
|------------------|--|
| 0800 | |
| 0830 | Recap from previous day (10 minutes) <i>Facilitator: Seema Deo</i> |
| | Video message from David Sheppard, Director General of SPREP (10 minutes) |
| | Aspiration & Achievement – Chris Filardi |
| 0900 | Session 3 -The big picture: why conservation is critical to sustainable development |
| | 3.1 Biodiversity and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) <i>Presenter: Tim Westbury, UNESCAP (15 minutes)</i> |
| | 3.2 Framework for Pacific Regionalism <i>Presenter: Joel Nilon, PIFS (15 minutes)</i> |
| | 3.3 Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020 <i>Presenter: Stuart Chape, SPREP (15 minutes)</i> |
| | 3.4 Discussion (25 minutes) |
| 1000 | Morning Tea |
| 1030 | Session 4 - Funding and financing opportunities for biodiversity conservation in the Pacific Islands |
| | 4.1 11 th European Development Fund (EDF-11) <i>Presenter: Jesus Lavinia, EU Delegation for the Pacific (Suva) (15 minutes)</i> |
| | 4.2 Micronesia Challenge Trust Fund <i>Presenter: Trina Leberer, TNC</i> |
| | 4.3 GEF Small Grants Programme (GEF-6) <i>Presenter: Katarina Atalifo-Malo, UNDP SGP</i> |
| | Discussion (15 minutes) |
| 1130 | Session 5 - Mapping of activities, projects and initiatives (current and pipeline) against the objectives of the Framework |
| | Breakout groups (This session will be facilitated by members of the Agenda Committee) (60 minutes) |
| 1230 | Lunch break (space for networking) |
| 1330 | Session 6 - Free flow sessions |
| | 5. Marine Protected Areas in French Polynesia - <i>Donatien Tanret, PEW</i> |
| | 6. Biodiversity Rapid Assessments (BIORAPs) - <i>Amanda Wheatley, SPREP</i> |
| | 7. Oceans Issues – Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction & Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction (ABNJ & BBNJ) – <i>Michael Donoghue, SPREP and Ryan Medrana, PIFS.</i> |
| | 8. WWF report ‘Reviving the Ocean Economy: The Case for Action 2015 – <i>Jackie Thomas, WWF Pacific.</i> |
| 1430 | Session 7 - Parallel Meetings of PIRT Groups |
| | PIRT Working Groups parallel discussion forums (Chairs/Reps of the Working Groups to coordinate and facilitate) |
| | Meeting of PIRT Heads of Organizations (PIRT Secretariat) |
| 1530 | Afternoon tea break |
| 1630 | Session 8 - A Way Forward Chaired by Taholo Kami, Chair of PIRT |
| | 1. Report back from PIRT Working Groups and PIRT Heads of Organizations (10 minutes each) |
| | 2. Adoption of overall meeting outcomes <i>Drafting committee (20 minutes)</i> |
| | 3. Next steps (10 minutes) |
| 1730 | Informal Talanoa Session (Space networking) |
| 1830 - 2130 | Closing reception <i>Hosted by the Chair of PIRT, IUCN to celebrate:</i> |
| | 1. Signing of PIRT Membership Agreements; and |
| | 2. Official closing of the 18th PIRT Annual Meeting |

Annex 2: List of Meeting Participants

| Name | Country/Org | Designation | Organisation | Postal Address | Phone | Email |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|--|---|----------------|--|
| Adi Meretui Ratanabuabua | Fiji Museum | Director | Fiji Museum | P O Box 2023, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji | +679 9939977 | mericulture@hotmail.com |
| Agnetha Vave-Karamui | MECCDMM | Chief Conservation Officer, Environment & Conservation Division | Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster management & Meteorology | P O Box 21, Honiara, Solomon Islands | +677 26036 | agnetha.vavekaramui@gmail.com |
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| Arthur Sokimi | UNDP | Programme Assistant | United Nations Development Programme | P O Box 13118, Suva, Fiji | +679 9343432 | arthur.sokimi@undp.org |
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Annex 3: Keynote Address delivered by Ms. Elizabeth Erasito

Mr. Taholo Kami, Chair of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation, and Regional Director for the IUCN Oceania Regional Office

Mr. Stuart Chape, Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation, and Director of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Management Division of SPREP

Fiji Government as Chair of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

Heads of Organisations, representatives, partners, donors and delegates

Ni sa bula vinaka.

Having worked with biodiversity conservation for nearly 20 years in Fiji, I pondered on the theme of for this Annual meeting - "Biodiversity for sustainable development". The new UN Framework to replace the Millennium Development Goals from 201-5 will be based on Sustainable Development Goals. For our region, this was reflected at the SIDS meeting in Samoa in September 2014 as part of our preparation for the World Summit of 2015.

Many of us who work with biodiversity conservation will know that the highest priority biodiversity sites in the Pacific are mostly within indigenous lands. These lands have extraordinary value -for their beauty, the ecosystem services they sustain, and for their biodiversity. Our indigenous cultures are strongly dependent on natural ecosystems for their livelihoods and keeping our natural landscapes intact is necessary to keeping our indigenous cultures intact.

As we deliberate over two days and devise strategies and discuss issues and solutions around critical and emerging conservation issues, we need to remind ourselves that the vast wealth of traditional knowledge held by indigenous communities can make a major contribution towards providing economic justification for biodiversity conservation, and that such knowledge continues to be of great importance for communities themselves. The rights, well-being and aspirations of our peoples and biodiversity conservation are therefore inextricably linked, neither one nor the other can be looked in isolation and they are a vital component of national and regional conservation strategies.

We have experienced the impacts of rapid social and economic change from poorly planned development. The grim reality is that the social and environmental cost of extractive industries to our pacific island nations far outweighs the benefits. Every resource owner and user has a responsibility. Traditional resource owners, forestry developers, industries, corporations, tourism, and so forth have a responsibility to the sustainable use of the resource.

Climate change in our region puts entire nations at risk and our growing population and needs have placed pressure on governments to satisfy the needs of their peoples. In his opening address to the National Summit on Green Growth in June 2014, the Prime Minister of Fiji stated, and I quote "the old ways of growing our economy, of developing our nation, are no longer adequate or acceptable. Too much of what has been done

or achieved has been unsustainable. In far too many instances, our resources have been exploited without the proper care that is needed to nurture them so that they continue to provide the prosperity on which we all depend” unquote.

In putting this statement into action, the Fiji government this year launched Fiji's very first Green Growth Framework, an innovative tool designed to accelerate integrated and inclusive sustainable development that inspires action at all levels in the country to build environmental resilience, social improvement, reduce poverty, growth and build resilience to the anticipated adverse effects of climate change.

Human well-being should be at the heart of our work, and conservationists in Fiji will be challenged to use this tool in ensuring the communities they work with are empowered and consulted, in contributing to risk management approaches and having their input towards a sustainable development approach of government.

Establishing managed protected areas using traditional governance approaches which engage with modern methods of protected area governance can be explored to improve food and water security. Such economic empowerment of communities is interlinked with the livelihood provision of the ecosystems and communities are provided with viable opportunities for sustainable use of their resources.

This is an opportunity for us to bring to Fiji's Greengrowth Framework, national and global conservation targets of the NBSAPs and Aichi Targets, in a meaningful way, positively supporting communities for their future well-being.

I would like to acknowledge the Fiji Government as Chair until the next Nature Conservation Conference in 2077. The guiding principles for Fiji's Greengrowth Framework provides us with elements which we can all aspire to achieve across our island nations. These are:

- Equality and dignity for all citizens
- Respect for the diverse cultural, religious and philosophical beliefs
- Unity among people driven for a common purpose and citizenship
- Good and just governance
- Sustainable economic growth
- Social and economic justice
- Equitable access to the benefits of development
- Meeting the basic needs and provision of services
- Merit based equality of opportunities for all
- Responsible stewardship of Fiji's ecosystem.

As you come together to look at strategies for the successful implementation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island Region, I encourage you to look at the challenges of development within the perspectives of environment, culture, values, human well-being and a future vision of the Pacific.