



*REPORT:*

THE VIRTUAL

**10TH PACIFIC ISLANDS CONFERENCE  
ON NATURE CONSERVATION AND  
PROTECTED AREAS**

**24-27 NOVEMBER 2020**



This conference report was compiled by SPREP's conference coordinator.

The report is a compilation and uses materials provided, developed or posted on the conference platform and related media. This output, as well as the conference itself, would not be possible without the inputs of all involved. We therefore want to thank all contributors: members of the conference coordination team, the conference advisory board, members from the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation (PIRT) and other involved organisations, staff from virtual event partner Varysian, local conference Hub partners, development teams for conference related products, individuals who submitted contributions for galleries, sponsors, donors, speakers, hosts, attendees and other enthusiasts.



The 10th edition of the Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas focused on the theme, 'Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific'. The free online event connected government agencies, NGOs, community-based organisations, donor agencies and individual experts concerned with conservation science and practice in the Pacific islands' region through a digital platform.

With over 1,800 registrations, over 3,800 unique LIVE session views and additional viewers in hubs in New Caledonia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea, the 10th Conference was one of, if not the biggest nature conservation event ever held in the Pacific Region.

Representatives from all Pacific Island Countries and Territories participated as well as from places from the Americas, Europe, Asia and beyond. Attendees participated from more than 50 countries, with participation from Pacific Island Countries and Territories being approx. 60%.

Going virtual and being bilingual made the 10th edition of the Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas a unique and inclusive opportunity: more people were able to participate in setting a Pacific based and initiated new agenda for Pacific conservation for the next five years. As such the Conference laid strong foundations to catalyze nature conservation action.



**1,800+**  
Registrations



**1,097**  
Logged In  
Users



**3,800+**  
Unique LIVE  
views



**6,191**  
Networking  
Activities



**3**  
Conference  
Hubs



**50+**  
Countries  
Represented



**77**  
Meetings in  
the Lounge



**3,345**  
Private  
Messages Sent



**443**  
Public  
Conversations



**35 Striking Facts**  
**75 Lightning Stories**  
**29 Youth Contributions**



**12**  
Press  
Articles





The **Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation (PIRT)** is a coalition of nature conservation and development organisations, governments, inter-governmental agencies, donor agencies, and community groups created to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Islands Region. PIRT was established in 1998 at the request of Pacific island countries and territories which was voiced at the 6th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 1997.



There are currently **14 official members** in the Roundtable: *Conservation International (CI), International Union for Conservation of Nature-Oceania (IUCN-ORO), Society for Conservation Biology Oceania (SCBO), SeaWeb, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), The Nature Conservancy (TNC), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), World Wildlife Fund (WWF), The University of the South Pacific (USP), BirdLife (BL), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, Protected Areas Learning and Research Collaborative (PALRC), The Pacific Community (SPC), Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF)*. The PIRT secretariat is hosted by SPREP.

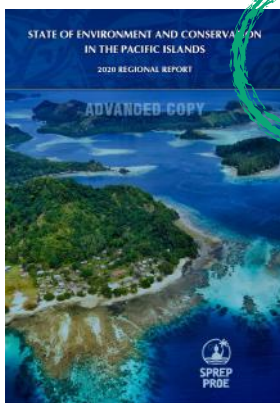


Since its start, members of PIRT are actively involved in the organisation of the Pacific Islands Conferences on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. At each conference they recommit to promote, facilitate and monitor progress based on a regional Framework. For each conference they work together with a host country. For the 10th edition the host country was New Caledonia.

Originally, the 10th conference was planned to be held as a face-to-face event from 20-24 April 2020 at the Tjibaou Cultural Centre in New Caledonia. Around 800 attendees were expected to participate. Due to COVID-19, we were forced to adapt within the context of the global pandemic. Postponing the conference and going virtual changed the approach but never its dynamic. Challenges were high, especially due to connectivity issues related to the Pacific context and the fact that the proliferation of many other virtual events certainly raised attendees' expectations. By creating a community around the event and focusing on purpose and action, the conference was able to significantly broaden participation and stand out as a unique regional event with strong local connections.

The second version of the **10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas** took place from 24-27 November 2020. It was a virtual event with face-to-face connectivity at local hubs. Ambitious goals were set and these were fully exceeded.





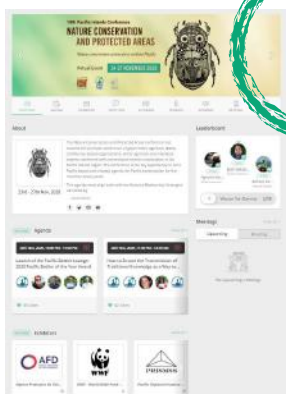
# 1

An up to date **State of Environment and Conservation in the Pacific Islands 2020 (SOEC)** was prepared in the run up to the conference and launched at the conference. It defines progress towards the achievement of regional and global conservation priorities and was presented to the attendees of the Conference and those of the High-Level Segment. The report provides a new benchmark for Pacific Nature Conservation, and identified a number of areas that need urgent and real action, so called 'Action Tracks'. These Action Tracks were prioritized as conference topics for the 21 parallel sessions. This allowed for a focused in-depth further analysis at the conference.



# 2

A new **Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas**, sets the agenda and priorities for conservation beyond 2020. The Framework was drafted, reviewed and discussed before the conference, and also during the conference by attendees. This document will provide important strategic guidance for nature conservation planning, prioritisation, and implementation in the region. 6 strategic objectives are accompanied by 21 Action Tracks, selected based on evidence provided in the SOEC and connecting with the conference theme. A set of eight Principles provides a code of conduct for further Implementation. Continuity is ensured by a post-engagement strategy.



# 3

The conference **built Pacific nature conservation capacity and stimulated knowledge management and learning** related to biodiversity conservation by **connecting** and bringing over 1,800 speakers and attendees together (60% were representatives from Pacific Island Countries and Territories). **Interactivity** was at the core of the conference mission. Sessions were characterized by attendees raising their questions to the panel of experts. Many sessions featured live polls where attendees could participate and provide relevant information, and the chatbox allowed communication among attendees in addition to networking opportunities provided by the virtual meeting lounge and the virtual exhibition. **Free access** marked a strong participation.



## 4



The implementation of the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025 was strengthened by a **virtual High-Level Segment, which saw the endorsement of the Vemööre Declaration**. This High-Level Segment was held on November 26 2020. The meeting was hosted by the New Caledonia Government and brought together government Ministers and Heads of Organisations of Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) members.

Countries attending the High-Level Segment included the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna, Australia, France, and New Zealand. Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) members present were BirdLife International, cChange Pacific, Conservation International, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Oceania Regional Office, The Nature Conservancy, Pacific Community, Protected Area Learning Research Collaborative (PALRC), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, Wildlife Conservation Society, World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) - New Caledonia, and World Wide Fund for Nature-Pacific. Remaining countries and territories not able to attend will be invited to endorse the declaration.

These 4 main conference results will now support broader regional objectives:

- to **influence the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework**
- to **guide and innovate conservation action** at a national and regional level
- to **secure sustainable funding** for nature conservation in Oceania.

To that purpose, members of the Pacific Island Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) already met to develop a post conference **engagement strategy**.





## 187 Speakers and Hosts

The Conference included 187 speakers and hosts this year, a significant increase in comparison to previous editions. They were as diverse as a President, a First Lady, Ministers, Ambassadors, Customary leaders, leaders and staff members from multinational agencies, regional agencies, government agencies, NGOs, community-based organisations, donor agencies, religious organisations, large and small companies, academics, and youth leaders.

Abbel CICA  
 Adi Meretui RATUNABUABUA  
 Albert KWATALAE  
 Alfred RALIFO  
 Alifereti TAWAKE  
 Aline SCHAFFAR  
 Allan RAHARI  
 Anaïs ROUVEYROL  
 Andrew FORAN  
 Anissa LAWRENCE  
 Ann SINGEO  
 Anne-Claire GOARANT  
 Anne-Sophie ARCHAMBEAU  
 Anthony TALOULI  
 Aunofo HAVEA FUNAKI  
 Basile VAN HAVRE  
 Benjamin DICKSON  
 Bettina LE  
 Bradley MYER  
 Brianna BAMBIC  
 Carol PHUA  
 Carole MARTINEZ  
 Caroline EDANT  
 Catherine SABINOT  
 Chuck COOPER  
 Clement GANDET  
 Clement Yow MULALAP  
 Clementine ANGLADA  
 Commander Robert LEWIS  
 David Moverly  
 Dominic SADLER  
 Donald James AROMALO  
 Dr Andre RAINE  
 Dr Christina SHAW  
 Dr Diva AMON  
 Dr Karen SOMMERVILLE  
 Dr Richard HAMILTON  
 Dr Rochelle CONSTANTINE  
 Dr Sascha FULLER  
 Dr Nicolas PILCHER  
 Duncan WILLIAMS  
 Easter CHU SHING  
 Ebo THOMAS  
 Edward BOYDELL  
 Elena GORCHAKOVA  
 Eliko SENIVASA  
 Elisapeti VEIKOSO  
 Elise HUFFER

Elizabeth ERASITO  
 Elizabeth MARUMA MREMA  
 Emily BEECH  
 Emily CORCORAN  
 Emma DO KHAC  
 Fabien ALBOUY  
 First Lady Debbie REMENGESAU  
 Florent PITHON  
 Florian LE BAIL  
 Francesca MANCINI  
 Francis STAUB  
 François PRIOUL  
 Genevieve JIVA  
 Geraldine DATUIN  
 Gillianne BRODIE  
 Glenn NEWLAND  
 Gwendalyn SISIOR  
 Hayley CHARLTON-HOWARD  
 Hon. E. David WARD  
 Hon. E. Satyendra PRASAD  
 Hon. M. Jean Pierre DJAIWE  
 Hon. Ralph REGENVANU  
 Hubert GERAUX  
 Huggard TONGATULE  
 Hugh GOVAN  
 Ian FREEMAN  
 Inger ANDERSEN  
 Irene KINAN  
 Jake TAOI  
 James TREMLETT  
 Jamie DAVIES  
 Javier CUETOS-BUENO  
 Jean THOMAS  
 Jean-Yves POEDI  
 Jerry SPOONER  
 Jessica BOUYE  
 Jimmy NAOUNA  
 Joanne LEE  
 Job OPU  
 Jodi SMITH MATANATAKI  
 Johann BELL  
 John TANZER  
 John-Paul JAUDEL  
 Jolene NELSON  
 Jonas TEIN  
 Jope DAVETANIVALU  
 Jörn THEYERKAUF  
 Josef PISI

Josine TIAVOUANE  
 Justin WELBERGEN  
 Karen BAIRD  
 Karen MAPUSUA  
 Kate BROWN  
 Katharina NARGAR  
 Katherine MARTIN  
 Kosi LATU  
 Lea SCHERL  
 Livia ESTERHAZY  
 Lynley HAYES  
 Lysa WINI  
 Makereta CINAVILAKEBA  
 Maleta TOKWAKWASI  
 Marc HOCKINGS  
 Margaret JOHNSON  
 Margaret WEST  
 Marie MONROLIN  
 Mark O'BRIEN  
 Mark STEGE  
 Martika TAHI  
 Mason SMITH  
 Mazzella A. MANIWAVIE  
 Mélanie FARMAN  
 Mema MOTUSAGA  
 Miles YOUNG  
 Miliana AINGA  
 Milika SOBEY  
 Minnie RAPE  
 Monica GRUBBER  
 Myjollyne KIM  
 Nick SOUTER  
 Nunia THOMAS-MOKO  
 Oscar Javier GUEVARA AREVALO  
 Patrick LEHODEY  
 Patrick PIKACHA  
 Patrick WALSH  
 Paul ANDERSON  
 Paul VAN NIMWEGEN  
 Pauline FABRE  
 Pearl WINCHESTER  
 Pelenatita KARA  
 Peter DAVIES  
 Peter THOMSON  
 Peter WALDIE  
 Philippe GERBEAUX  
 Philippe RENAULT  
 Pierre METSAN

Pres. Thierry SANTA  
 Prof. Ove HOEGH-GULDBERG  
 Puna RAKANUI  
 Rebecca SAMUELS  
 Reverend James BHAGWAN  
 Richard BALONE  
 Richard GRIFFITHS  
 Rosalie MASU  
 Roxanne BLESAM  
 Sangeeta MANGUBHAI  
 Schannel SAGELE VAN DIJKEN  
 Sebastien LAGARDE  
 Sefanaia NAWADRA  
 Selma HAOUET  
 Senilolia TUIWAWA  
 Serge PLANES  
 Setoa APO  
 Sherdian WAITAI  
 Simon MILNE  
 Simon NICOL  
 Simon VUTO  
 Siosinamele LUI  
 Siteri TIKOCA  
 Snyther BIZA  
 Stacy JUPITER  
 Stuart CHAPE  
 Susana WAQAINABETE-TUISESE  
 Suzie GREENHALGH  
 T. Ilihia GIONSON  
 Teina MACKENZIE  
 Thierry CANTERI  
 Thomas AUGER  
 Tiffany STRAZA  
 Trina LEBERER  
 Tyler NG CHUNG  
 Vainuupo JUNGBLUT  
 Van Duong DANG  
 Veira TALILOTU  
 Victor DAVID  
 Viliami HAKAUMOTU  
 Watisoni LALAVANUA  
 Willy KOSTKA  
 Yannick DOMINIQUE

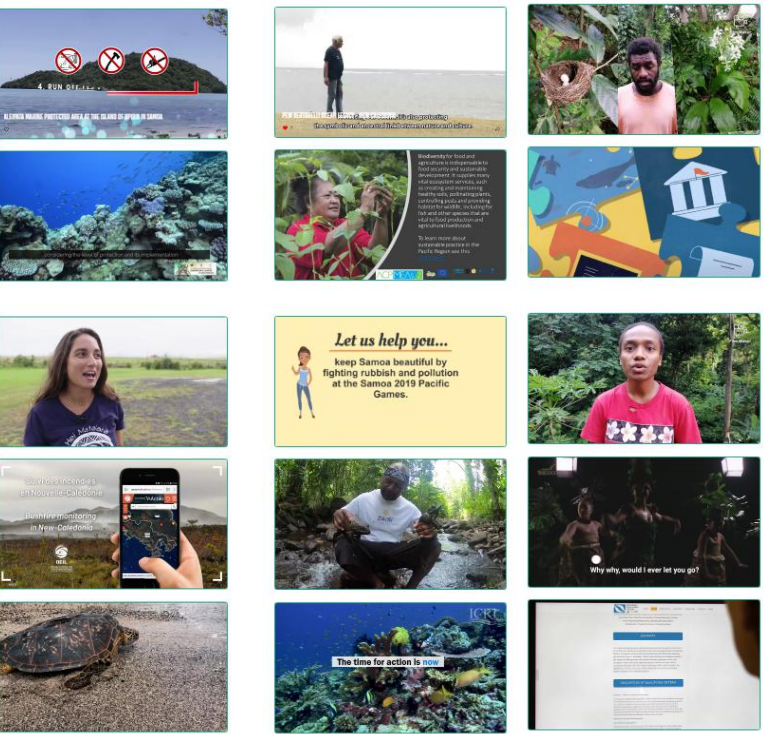


In order to showcase knowledge and solutions related to nature conservation action in the Pacific Islands, the original face-to-face conference provided space in its programme for 61 parallel sessions, each with a duration of 1 hour and 30 minutes. By going virtual a lot of that space in the agenda was lost, but we still wanted to bring those stories! By creating virtual galleries on the website and by the event feed on the conference platform, we were able to provide **new and open spaces for lightning stories to be told and striking facts to be shared.**

## GALLERIES



### LIGHTNING STORIES 75 Submitted



### STRIKING FACTS 35 Submitted





## Pacific Youth Engagement for Nature Conservation

In order to stimulate the participation of youth, the organisation enhanced its efforts in 2020. This connection with Pacific Youth, and their engagement in the dialogues around the Pacific agenda and priorities for conservation beyond 2020, made the conference more inclusive.

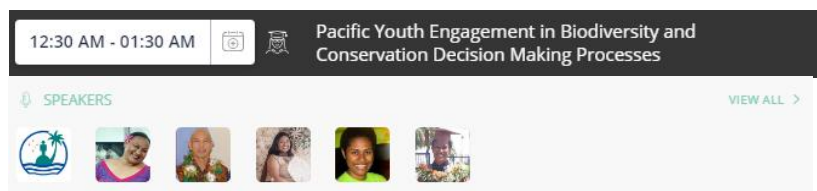


The **Youth Biodiversity Gallery** received 29 submissions from young people expressing their voice on biodiversity issues through art and creative communication and reflecting on their relationship to a changing world and becoming advocates for environmental action.

Youth representatives participated in reviewing and drafting the **Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025**. They also responded with an own **youth statement** to the Declaration of the High-Level Segment.



The **Pacific Youth Booth** at the Virtual Exhibition gave youth and all attendees a great space to exchange and get to know each other's initiatives better. A **specific session on Youth Engagement in Nature Conservation** illustrated the state of participation and allowed for more debate.



Per country, the conservation community and interested public was brought together face-to-face. This occurred on a voluntary basis and in an eco-responsible way.

## Pre-conference event

The host country **New Caledonia** organised a local day on the theme "Conservation in Action". This event was held on October 11 2020 and integrated in the *Salon international du Livre océanien* (SILO). 2,000 attendees enjoyed activities such as animation, stands, demonstrations, planting, film debate, roundtables and exhibitions.



### DID YOU KNOW?

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
The Coral Sea Marine Park is home to a third of the world's virgin reefs.  
Entrecasteaux Reefs, New Caledonia.  
©Mathieu Macias

**Filme ta solution NC pour la biodiversité**  
11 OCTOBRE  
CENTRE CULTUREL TIJBAOU

**10<sup>e</sup> CONFÉRENCE POUR LA CONSERVATION DE LA BIODIVERSITÉ DES ÎLES DU PACIFIQUE**  
NOUVELLE-CALÉDONIE  
10 OCT 2020

## Adapting visibility

New Caledonia worked on giving the virtual event a New Caledonian look and feel. This happened by:

- New Caledonia's Postal and Telecommunication Service (OPT-NC) launched a **Conference postage stamp** designed by Nicolas Molé.
- 'Did you know' popups were integrated on the conference website to inform visitors about nature conservation related facts of New Caledonia.
- **10 Lightning Stories** were filmed with TV Channel CALEDONIA and SILO.





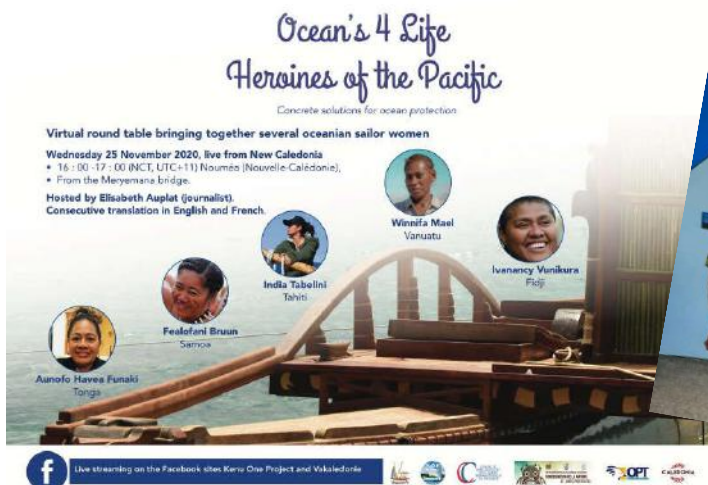
## Local Hubs supporting the Virtual Conference

Different Local Hubs broadcasted sessions of the conference:

- **Noumea, New Caledonia** @ The Pacific Community
- **Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea** @ University of PNG, with support of the New Caledonia Embassy
- **Suva, Fiji** @ IUCN-Oceania Regional Office & @ National Trust of Fiji

## Local Hubs organising get-togethers.

Additional side events were set up in New Caledonia, Fiji and Papua New Guinea showcasing nature solutions.



## 23 Financial Partners and Sponsors



# EXPERTS OFFERED DIVERSE PERSPECTIVES AND SOLUTIONS ON PRESSING NATURE CONSERVATION ISSUES

11

**More than 3,800 session views across all sessions**  
*3 plenary sessions, 22 parallel sessions, 12 sponsored sessions*

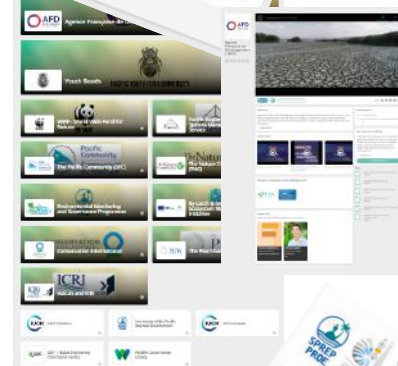
Opening Session: State of Conservation in the Pacific Islands	Towards Greater Protection of our Pacific Marine Heritage	Battling Invasive Species	Our People at the Center of Nature Conservation
Turning the Tide:- Preventing Plastic Pollution in PICTs	Protecting and Restoring Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Pacific	How to better use data and Traditional Knowledge to make Decisions that affect Nature	Nature's Oceanic Voyagers
Can Nature-based Solutions Achieve their Potential to Tackle Human Induced Problems?	Environmental Governance in the Pacific: Towards an Informed and Engaged Citizenry, and Rights for Nature	New Caledonia, Facing Common Pacific Islands Fisheries Concerns	Bringing our Pacific Lands Under Meaningful Protection - Lessons From the Past 10 Years
Valuing Biodiversity in the Pacific: the place of Identity, Traditional knowledge, Education, Heritage and Cultural Expressions	Mangroves, Coral Reefs, and Seagrass: Conserving Coastal Marine Habitats in the Pacific	Assessing and Mitigating Threats and Pressures on Inland and Coastal Water Quality in the Pacific	Sustainable and Regenerative Tourism in the Pacific - Tools for Making Progress
Deep Connections – Pacific Communities and Deep-Sea Mining	Saving Paradise - Species by Species	Building Resilient Island Economies and Communities in the Pacific: Balancing Protection and Production	Ocean Health for Ocean Wealth –Sustainable Ocean Economies
How to Draw on Nature to Ensure a Sustainable Development?	Sustainable Financing for Nature Conservation: Dream Big, Work Hard, and Go for It!	Pacific Youth Engagement in Biodiversity and Conservation Decision Making Processes	The Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025
Closing Session: Declaration of Vemööre	Launch of the Pacific Battler Lounge: 2020 Pacific Battler of the Year Award	Prioritising Coral Reefs in the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework	Institutionalising Indigenous Knowledge and Values in Pacific Conservation
How to Ensure the Transmission of Traditional Knowledge as a Way to Preserve Biodiversity in the Pacific?	Pacific Battler Lounge: Managing Pigs in the Pacific	Measuring Success: What should we measure and how? Examples from Melanesia and Micronesia	Resilient Reefs & Communities: How Investing in the Pacific can Build a Climate-Ready & Sustainable Future
Assessing the Risk of Turtle Extinction in the Pacific to Inform Regional Conservation Approaches	Building the Case for a Sustainable Blue Economy in the South West Pacific	30/30 Vision: Pacific Leadership on Protected and Conserved Areas at the UN Convention on Biological Diversity	Data Driven Decision Making
Which approaches to developing an integrated regional framework? SPC helping the Pacific region reconcile social & economic development with the protection of nature and culture			

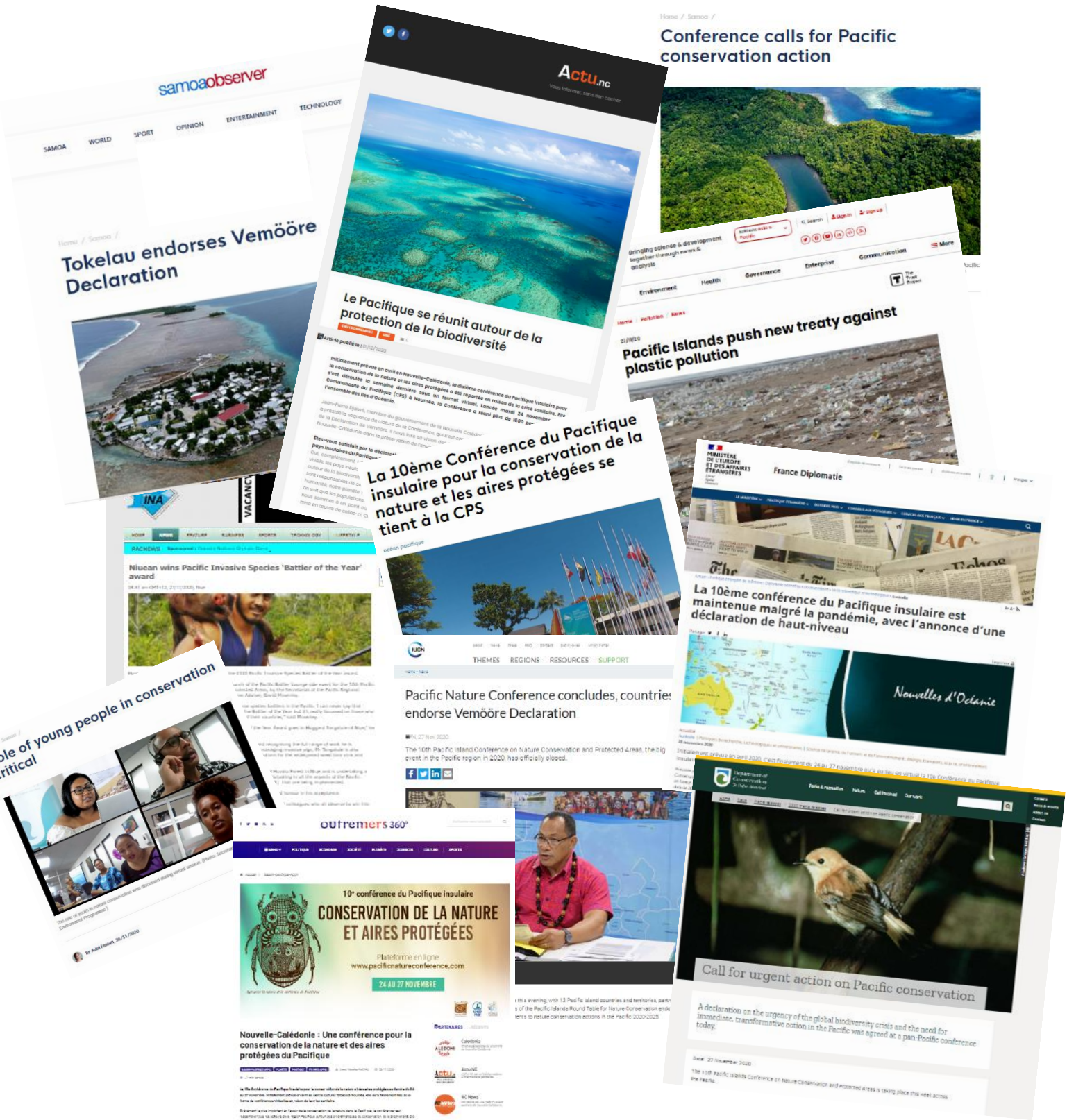
**All Session Recordings are available on the Conference Platform for 1 year (Conference Platform accessible through registration on Conference Website)**



10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

- A **standalone conference website**, created specifically for marketing and promoting the event. We used Wix for building the website.
- A **new, interactive and bilingual platform** that allowed participants to meet and engage with one another regardless of their physical location. We used Hubilo for the platform combined with Zoom and Clevercast for live streaming.
- **Virtual plenary sessions (3)** focussing on the main conference products. **22 virtual parallel sessions:** 6 for each of the three thematic streams: Our Ocean, Our Islands, Our Connection with Nature (that's 18!), and 4 focussing on transversal themes (finance, governance, monitoring, youth). All sessions allowed **interactivity through chat boxes, Q&A and polls. All sessions are available for replay** for 1 year after the conference.
- A **virtual exhibition with 15 booths and 12 virtual side-events for sponsors.** This allowed attendees to directly interact with sponsors, connect with leading organisations, and maintain contact after.
- A **virtual Networking Lounge, virtual Meeting Rooms** and a **Speakers page**, all allowed attendees to directly interact with other attendees, speakers and/or sponsors, and to set up meetings.
- A **High-Level Segment** at the conference for the first time, even conducted virtually!
- A **standalone and timely communication strategy**, including a **social media campaign** feeding the social media of partners involved, and **12 conference newsletters.**
- **18 one-hour training sessions organised for speakers and hosts** and **tutorial videos** made available for attendees. An equal amount of training was realised for the exhibition holders.
- All aspects of the **event run in two languages** (English and French) and with **live interpretation**, which offered English and French-speakers a more inclusive experience.





**New Deal for Nature and People** @NatureDeal · Nov 24  
 Underprotected, overfished and polluted. Our oceans are in crisis.                                                                                     

Urgent action is needed to protect them and the people they support. A strong #Biodiversity2020 framework is vital to securing a sustainable and resilient future for the Pacific. #PacificNatureConference



1 31 39

**Sian Owen** @siankowen · Nov 25  
 "We mustn't lose sight of our #Futuregenerations," Jean-Yves Poedji, Kanak Chief from New Caledonia calls for a ban on #deepseamining at the 10th @SPREP #PacificNatureConference. @DeepSeaConserve #DefendtheDeep



6 10

**SPREP** @SprepChannel · Dec 8  
 Marine Turtle Extinction Risk Assessment to Support Decision Making in Turtle Conservation: sprep.org/news/marine-t... #PacificNatureConference #Turtles #Conservation #ResilientPacific



5 7

**WCS Ocean** @WCSOcean · Nov 18  
 Resilient reefs & communities: How investing in the Pacific can build a climate-ready & sustainable future for people & nature. Join this @CoralRescue virtual side event at the 10th Pacific Islands Conference. November 27th @ 14:00 Samoa. #PacificNatureConference



2 10

**350 Pacific** @350Pacific · Nov 26  
 "We cannot truly begin ensuring our natural systems are protected if we continue to extract, pollute, and destroy" @CANPacifics Coordinator @lennyjiva19 during the 10th #PacificNatureConference

**SPREP** @SprepChannel · Nov 26  
 Youth Recognised At Conference As The "Custodians Of The Future" sprep.org/news/youth-rec... #PacificNatureConference #IUCN #SPREP #Youth




3 7

**PANG** @pangmedia · Nov 25  
 As custodians of the responsibility to protect the Ocean against its exploitation and destruction in our time, we have a sacred and longstanding legacy to uphold - @PadiJB #PacificNatureConference @Pacific\_2020 @DAWNfeminist @spc\_cps @wwfpacific

5 11

**ICRI Secretariat** @ICRI\_Coral\_Reef · Nov 26  
 If you are participating in the #PacificNatureConference this week pop by to the @ICRI\_Coral\_Reef / @Vulcanic booth to say hi! We are talking about the need to keep #CoralReef ecosystems high on the political agenda in 2021 #ForCoral coralpost2020.org



3 2

**TierraMar** @TierraMar\_Aus · Nov 24  
 Want to know more about the risks #turtles are facing in the Pacific? Visit the BIEM Initiative exhibition booth to find out more! #pacificnatureconference

**SPREP** @SprepChannel · Nov 24  
 How can we turn the tide on by-catch of protected species? Join the BIEM side event "Assessing the risk of turtle extinction in the Pacific to inform regional conservation approaches" at 3.30pm Apia Time on Friday 27/11/20 #EU #SIDA #PEUMP #IUCN #turtles #Bycatch @TierraMar\_Aus



1

**Coral Reef Rescue Initiative** @CoralRescue · Nov 24  
 Public Sector Partnerships can provide opportunities to support community development and coral reef conservation in the Pacific for the benefit of people and nature. #PacificNatureConference #ForCoral #wwfpacific @SprepChannel

"We women are usually the primary users of marine resources. We clean, cook and even sell whatever the family produces or catches in the market to bring in money, whether they be fish, seaweed or shells. This is why I have encouraged and led women and girls in my community to venture into other livelihood options, as a way to help reduce fishing pressure on our reefs."

Rishah Nelsen  
 President of the Sustainable Women's Savings Club, an initiative piloted and supported by WWF in the Solomon Islands



3

**Pacific Live tweets** @spsc\_live · Nov 27  
 Coming up! @spsc\_cps virtual side event at the #PacificNatureConference! #ResilientPacific #LiveTweet 2 p.m. Noumea - 3 p.m. Fiji time @spsc\_cps @SprepChannel @IUCN\_Oceania



1 3 8

**Basile van Havre** @BasilevanHavre · Nov 26  
 Great presentation on the state of biodiversity in the Pacific at 10th Pacific Islands conference on Nature. Looking forward to the #Vembore declaration in a few minutes: Efforts for #Nature #post2020



3 16

**Joey Tau** @JoeyTau · Nov 25  
 Firm statements from the #Pacific against #DeepSeaMining at the 10th #PacificNatureConference.

**Sian Owen** @siankowen · Nov 25  
 "No to seabed mining in our waters, in the area, anywhere in our #ocean." Pelenatita Kara from the Civil Society Forum of Tonga reports that communities across the country say no to deepseamining. @DeepSeaConserve #DefendtheDeep #DeepTrouble



1 3

**David WardUK** @DavidWardUK2 · Nov 24  
 Excited to attend the opening of the #SPREP and #IUCN Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. Habitats under threat, but look at the difference a Marine Protected Area makes: satellite images of fishing boats in Kiribati before and after MPA set up.



1 3





**Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP**  
26 November at 06:34

Pacific Nature Conference concludes, countries endorse Vemööre Declaration  
The 10th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, the biggest virtual event in the Pacific region in 2020, has officially closed.  
The three-day conference ended on a high note this evening, with 13 Pacific island countries and territories, partner countries, and the Heads of Organisations of 12 members of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation endorsing... See more



62 1 comment 6 shares

**10e Conférence Régionale - Conservation de la Nature et des Aires Protégées**  
27 November at 07:06

**MOMENT HISTORIQUE POUR LA BIODIVERSITÉ**  
Le Pacifique adopte pour 21 recommandations dans la Déclaration de Vemööre  
Mission accomplie pour la 10e Conférence du Pacifique insulaire sur la conservation de la nature et les aires protégées avec l'adoption le 26 novembre de la Déclaration de Vemööre, une première dans l'histoire de cet événement. Ce texte est assorti d'engagements et de recommandations pour les leaders politiques internationaux... See more



**10e Conférence Régionale - Conservation de la Nature et des Aires Protégées**  
Event [Learn More](#)

198 1 comment 44 shares

**TieraMar**  
22 November at 12:07

The 10th Pacific Nature Conference is now on! Come and meet us at the conference from 24-27th November. Watch expert sessions on nature, conservation, people and the future of the Pacific. Registration is free. <https://www.pacificnatureconference.com/registration>



[PACIFICNATURECONFERENCE.COM](https://www.pacificnatureconference.com)  
**REGISTRATION | Sprep**  
The official languages of this conference are English and French, please indicate... [Sign Up](#)

**Sera Datuin**  
27 November at 11:26

It's been a long week of presentations at the 10th Pacific Island Nature conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. I'm left inspired with the work of those before me and excited for what is to come. There is still a lot of work to do and no one initiative is perfect, but the one thing that remains clear to me is that in the Pacific, we need to work together to tackle large issues of conservation, climate and sustainability. Humility and cohesiveness between people and cultures should not be overlooked, but friendly competition between islands can also be a motivating factor to do better at protecting our land and waters.  
The 10th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas is being held from 24-27 October 2020 under the theme 'Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific'. The conference is organised every five to six years by the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRNT) and SPREP, and hosted by the Government of New Caledonia.  
For more information on the conference, please visit the website: [www.pacificnatureconference.com](http://www.pacificnatureconference.com)



**Pacific-Community-SPC**  
20 November at 22:55

The 10th Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas is almost here! With only 3 days to go, we are gearing up for what will be one of the biggest virtual conference of its kind in the Pacific. Are you ready? <https://www.pacificnatureconference.com/>  
#PacificNatureConference #ResilientPacific #NewCaledonia IUCN Oceania #Pacific Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme - SPREP Gouvernement de la Nouvelle-Calédonie



You, Amanda Wheatley and 28 others 6 shares

**IUCN Oceania**  
26 November at 07:30

Director of Nature-Fiji-Mareqetiviti Nunia Moko delivers an inspiring statement as the 10th Nature Conference wraps up.  
#natureconference



99 3 comments 36 shares

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**National Trust of Fiji Islands**  
25 November at 00:32

Day 2 of the 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas. Given the current worldwide situation, this conference is happening online and see conservationists and practitioners from around the globe, sharing experiences, wisdom and lessons learnt.  
The Director of the National Trust of Fiji was a speaker today, on one of the many online sessions scheduled throughout the week. She joined other invited conservationists who also shared their experie... See more



You, Amanda Wheatley and 18 others 2 comments

**Ilex Tora** shared a link  
24 November at 06:17  
November 24, 2020  
Great work Pacific Invasive Team



[YOUTUBE.COM](#)  
**Battling Invasive Species Session - Nature conference 2020**  
Main session on Battling Invasive Species in the Pacific in Pacific Na...

David I. Sakoda and 12 others 5 comments

**King Kate Brown**  
23 November at 05:48

We (GLISPA)/Local2030 Islands Network have a session this Wednesday at 1:30 pm Samoa time on sustainable tourism during the 10th Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas where the wonderful First Lady of Palau, Debbie Remengesau will share on the Palau Pledge and their efforts for Palau. She will be joined by other speakers including Simon Milne, Professor of Tourism, Director of the New Zealand Tourism Research Institute, School of Hospitality an... See more




[PACIFICNATURECONFERENCE.COM](https://www.pacificnatureconference.com)  
**Pacific Island Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas**


20 1 share



# POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE ATTENDEES' EVALUATION

**97%**  **OF RESPONDENTS SAY THEY ARE OVERALL SATISFIED WITH THE CONFERENCE**

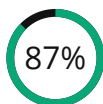
**80%**  **OF RESPONDENTS SAY WE REACHED OUR OBJECTIVES**

**92%**  **OF RESPONDENTS SAY THE CONFERENCE COVERED THINGS THAT WILL BE USEFUL FOR THEIR WORK**

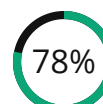
**84%**  **OF RESPONDENTS SAY THE CONFERENCE ALLOWED TO CONNECT WITH PEOPLE AND ORGANIZATIONS THEY DIDN'T KNOW BEFORE**



Satisfied with  
Conference website



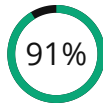
Satisfied with  
Conference newsletters



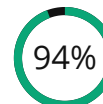
Satisfied with  
Conference social media



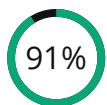
Satisfied with  
Plenary sessions



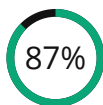
Satisfied with  
Variety of parallel sessions



Satisfied with  
Parallel sessions' presentations



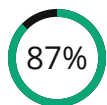
Satisfied with  
Registration procedure



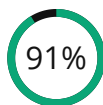
Satisfied with  
Login on Platform



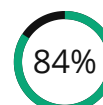
Satisfied with  
Lounge on the Platform



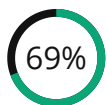
Satisfied with  
Event feed on the Platform



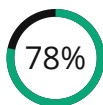
Satisfied with  
Agenda on the Platform



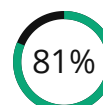
Satisfied with  
Exhibition on the Platform



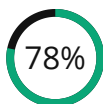
Satisfied with  
Meeting on the Platform



Satisfied with  
Information on Attendees on the Platform



Satisfied with  
Information on Speakers on the Platform



Satisfied with  
General management in 2 languages (English and French)



Attendees enjoyed the interactive nature and diversity of speakers and topics. This is what they told us:

- *"The **sharing of expertise, experience** of conservation issues **relevant** to the Pacific, with a Pacific island nuance."*
- *"The ability to **meet and connect** with other experts **globally**."*
- *"Presentations on the **wide range** of initiatives, by theme."*
- *"I have been impressed with regional organisations, but importantly our **communities contributing**."*
- *"I love the ease of going in and out of sessions, and the **sessions are rich**."*
- *"I like that there is **ample time between sessions**, that allowed speakers to adjust for any glitches at the beginning."*
- *"So far well done and my first time to attend this conference. I am looking forward to attending more meetings in the future. In particular let's make our vast local knowledge known to the world on how we can manage our natural resources."*
- *"Excellent work, great platform. Very engaging. Was **good to have the feed** where people could post about their work."*
- *"It was a **useful** week."*
- *"Excellent conference. **Great agenda, IT platform was easy to use**, all the preparatory work before the conference was effective. The organising team showed great patience with some of us who were slow to respond. Their patience and accommodating approach was well appreciated."*
- *"The Conference was **well organized** and it had **some amazing sessions** and speakers. The **exhibition booths and event feed** were also great on the platform."*
- *"Congratulations for adapting to the exceptional conditions imposed by the health crisis. It showed that it is possible. I believe that **for an event that defends biodiversity, it is imperative not to go back to a physical conference involving the air travel of many people**. Finally, the fact that access was made free of charge seems to be extremely important in the opening to all those working in the field. We must maintain this."*



## WHAT WENT WELL

- **Start timely.** Organizing a conference implies hiring event management staff, developing ideas and concepts, mobilizing people, contracting suppliers, promotion, ... This all takes time. Some things can be done last minute, some not. And if you have great ideas, it is a pity that you won't be able to realize them because of a lack of time. For a face-to-face event of this size, start 12-14 months before. For a virtual event, start 6 months before.
- We invested quite some time in the **concept creation** of the conference at the very early stages. For every aspect of the conference we had a concept note with ambitious, clear but feasible objectives. This gave orientation to all our preparatory work.
- **Build the conference budget early.** This supports you to pursue funding and sponsorship. Working with a well developed sponsorship prospectus gave space for many sponsors to showcase and enabled to diversify the conference income.
- **Connect the dots in the conference story.** We used the State of Conservation and Environment as an inspiration for the agenda (programming the sessions), but also for the New Framework and the Declaration. This approach not only made for a stronger narrative, it broad in the bigger picture and it made future strategy evidence-based.
- **Develop a conference community.** The coordination was done by a team. The agenda was developed by session development groups. Space was made available for sponsors. The conference outputs had attention for co-creation, incorporating comments and inputs from many stakeholders. Working together builds community and that community enables to do things that you cannot do alone and enhances the overall quality.
- **Working in an inclusive way** is not only a burden or an additional cost, it enriches the dialogues and quality of the outcomes. Working in 2 languages, working in a participatory way, working virtually,... The nature conservation community that was present was more diverse than ever before.
- **Communication is crucial at all stages:** to generate buy-in around concepts, to promote, to engage speakers and attendees, to involve suppliers,... Conference communication is far more than only promotion of the event. Such an event comes with a very intense amount of communication. Keeping communication coordinated and setting up a conference specific communication plan and tools made possible that the organizers could hold on to communication timelines and feed all involved partners when needed.
- **Innovation is possible!** While preparing the conference, we came across quite some challenges and resistance. Some of our concepts and approaches went a bit too far for some. We knew change implies dealing with resistances and with clear communication we were able to convince and show that adaptation can enable innovation.
- **Engaging professionals in event management** is worth the investment. Professionals not only bring experience that ensures that things are managed efficiently and effectively, they can also strengthen the purpose and empower, as such making the event a better one.



## WHAT WENT WELL (CONTINUED)

- Ensure **enough human resources** for the conference team and ensure they are **available when they need to be available** for the conference (enough and at the right time). Don't underestimate that some things do happen last minute (for example confirmation of speakers), and when that happens you need to be able to deal with the many issues.
- **Invest in what happens next.** For the very first time we invested in mobilising people already before the conference around defining a post-conference engagement strategy.
- **Going virtual is going green!** This conference left only a small ecological footprint.

## WHAT WE COULD HAVE DONE BETTER

- **More training and sensibilization.** Although we organised many training sessions for speakers, quite a few did not attend. This affected the quality of some sessions. This issue was mainly the effect of very late confirmations of some speakers. Although tutorial videos were made available on time, some people experienced inconveniences logging in at the early stages of the conference, some expressed frustration that they had to wait when pushing the button 'join session'.
- Interpretation was generally okay, but some **variations in the quality of interpretation** were observed.
- **Working with 2 live streaming softwares** (Zoom and Clevercast) solved the challenges related to working with 2 languages, but made some features (like Q&A, polls and chat boxes) varying in their appearance. Some attendees struggled with that variation.
- The **virtual Lounge was underused.** Some sessions that went overtime moved to the Lounge to continue, but were limited to do so by the limited/predefined amount of participants to these meeting rooms.
- **Some session introductions took too much time** and therefore limited the more important parts of the session.
- Most **session recordings were available rather late** on the platform, mostly a week after the event (due to editing). It was a missed opportunity to not have them available during the conference (for example 1 day after the live sessions).
- Although being an event that reoccurs every 5 years, the conference is not sufficiently embedded in a longer term organisational framework. **More can be done to integrate the conference in the work of PIRT.** Structural funding of PIRT might enable conference funding and would also allow for post-conference strategies and plans to be developed. That would also strengthen the use of the important conference outputs, such as the Framework.



## KEEP IN TOUCH THROUGH THESE OPPORTUNITIES:

- **Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation (PIRT).** Connect with the PIRT Secretariat and follow-up on the developments of the engagement strategy. Contact the PIRT Secretariat at SPREP through: [pirtsecretariat@sprep.org](mailto:pirtsecretariat@sprep.org)
- **Conference Platform.** Review your session or view all the ones you missed out on. This content will be available for a full year.

You can login on the Conference Platform:

<https://pacificislands.hubilo.com/community/#/home>

Or write an email to the PIRT Secretariat: [pirtsecretariat@sprep.org](mailto:pirtsecretariat@sprep.org)

- ... **11th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas.** Rest assured, we will be back in 2025! Make sure you don't miss the save the date.

We look forward to your continued involvement  
in the nature conservation community and its  
actions in the Pacific!

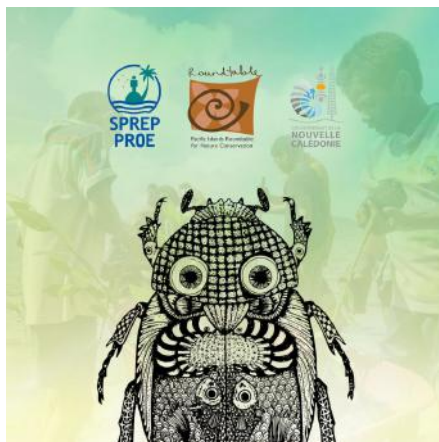




Photo: © Universal Peace Federation

“ We are all connected, and ultimately, we are all just visitors on this planet. ”

~ *First Lady Debbie Remengesau, the First Lady of Palau*



“If we don’t address the threat, we are wasting money with restoration”

~ *Dr Gilianne Brodie  
USP-IAS Deputy Director*



Photo: © IUCN Oceania

“ I put forth a challenge. A 5 year old today, will be 10 in 5 years, a 10 year old, 15 and a 15 year old, 25.

Over the next 5 years, let us not only look forward, but also backward, at the results, and pave an inheritance that our children, and their children will have the capacity to and will be proud to steward onward. ”

~ *Nunia-Thomas Moko, Director of Nature Fiji-Moreqeti Viti*



**The urgent need to prioritize coral reefs could not be more in line with our vision of a ‘resilient Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.’ Our island nations depend on coral reef and their survival is imperative and foundational to all we hold dear.**

**Kosi Latu**

DIRECTOR GENERAL, SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

[WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG](http://WWW.CORALPOST2020.ORG)



Photo: © IUCN Oceania

The theme of our 10th Nature Conference is therefore “Nature Conservation Action for a Resilient Pacific”.

The operative word being “**action**”. Post conference we must hold ourselves accountable and **take action** where necessary.

Let us help ourselves first before we ask others to help us. **Let us be resilient.**

~ *Mason Smith, IUCN Oceania Regional Director and PIRT Chair*



Roundtable



Pacific Islands Roundtable  
for Nature Conservation



SPREP  
PROE



GOUVERNEMENT DE LA  
NOUVELLE  
CALÉDONIE



**THANK YOU !**

**FOR MAKING THE CONFERENCE  
A SUCCESS!**

**WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT  
WITHOUT YOU!**