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The Pacific environment, sustaining our livelihoods and natural heritage in harmony with our cultures.

Twenty Fifth SPREP Meeting of Officials

Majuro, Marshall Islands
 30 September – 2 October 2014

AGENDA ITEM 10.1.1: Outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

Purpose of Paper

1. To note the outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and seek endorsement of a process for selecting the host of the next conference

Background

2. The 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas was successfully concluded with the adoption of the following key outcomes: (i) Laucala Conference Declaration (Att. 1); (ii) High Level 10 Key Actions (Att. II); and (iii) Launch of the Inaugural Pacific Islands Environment Leadership Awards (Att. III).
3. The Conference was attended by more than 800 participants from within and outside of the region. It was co-hosted by the Government of Fiji, SPREP and the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation (PIRT). The conference was made possible with funding received from a number of key development partners and donors including financial contributions from PIRT partners and through registration fees. In addition, technical and in-kind support was also provided by PIRT members, USP through facilities and venues for parallel events during the conference, and groups of volunteers provided by the Government of Fiji and WWF.
4. The host of the 10th Conference was not discussed at the 9th Conference as the Secretariat felt that a new process with specific criteria should be put in place to select the next host. The date of the next Conference was not determined either, but there was a general agreement that the next conference should correspond with timeframes outlined in the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island region 2014-2020.

5. The Secretariat acknowledges with appreciation the commitment and support from the Government of Fiji, IUCN as Chair of PIRT and PIRT members for hosting a successful conference.

Recommendation

6. The Meeting is invited to:

- **note** the key outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas; and
- **approve** an open and transparent process through a Call for Expression of Interests from SPREP PICT members who wish to host the Tenth Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

3 September, 2014