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



Twenty Seventh SPREP Meeting

Alofi, Niue

19 – 21 September 2016

Agenda Item 9.1.4 : Outcomes of the 19th Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation

Purpose

1. The purpose of this paper is (i) to update Members on the work of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation and (ii) to seek endorsement of Members on the outcomes of the 19th Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation (PIRT) on mainstreaming biodiversity

Background

2. The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) is a coalition of nature conservation and development organisations, governments, inter-governmental organisations, donor agencies and community groups created to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Islands Region. It was established in 1998 at the request of Pacific island countries and territories at the 6th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 1997. The forum enables those organisations working on nature conservation in the Pacific to improve collaboration and coordination for more effective conservation action. It is the key coordination mechanism for the implementation of the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020 which was adopted at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and was subsequently endorsed at the 25th Annual SPREP Meeting in September 2014.
3. The Round Table for Nature Conservation provides an excellent platform to discuss strategic biodiversity conservation issues in the region and is the mechanism for coordinating the implementation of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific islands region 2014-2020. SPREP is the Secretariat of PIRT with IUCN ORO as the Chair. There are four main thematic working groups of PIRT focusing on invasive alien species, species conservation, protected areas and environmental law.
4. The 19th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation was held on the 14 - 15 July, 2016 in Nadi, Fiji and was hosted by the Government of Fiji. The meeting brought together close to 60 participants from governments, CBD Secretariat, regional organizations, NGOs, local communities, development partners and international organizations.

5. The theme of the meeting was on "**Mainstreaming biodiversity: sustaining Pacific people and their livelihoods**" which is aligned to the theme of the 2016 Year of Biodiversity as well as the theme of the CBD COP13 high level segment. The focus on mainstreaming biodiversity reinforced the fundamental role and value of biodiversity and ecosystem services it provides to people's well-being. It also supports the need for more concerted, inclusive and integrated approaches to biodiversity conservation and protection.
6. The 19th PIRT Meeting discussed a number of key issues on mainstreaming biodiversity including examples of national experiences and approaches to mainstreaming biodiversity into national development planning and budgeting processes; mainstreaming of biodiversity into development sectors such as the agricultural, forestry and fisheries sectors; and mainstreaming biodiversity at local community levels. There was a general consensus at the meeting on the need to scale up mainstreaming efforts through more innovative, creative and integrated approaches to mainstream biodiversity across the main development sectors and taking into account key global and regional agreements such as the SDGs, the Aichi Targets, MEAs, the Framework for Regionalism and other key planning instruments and frameworks. It also noted the opportunity through the revised and updated NBSAPs as a mechanism and vehicle to mainstream biodiversity at all levels.

Recommendation

7. The Meeting is invited to:
 - **note** the key role of the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation as a coordination mechanism for implementing the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020;
 - **agree** that mainstreaming biodiversity should be an integral part of the revised and updated NBSAPs; and that it should be implemented in a more coordinated, inclusive and integrated manner involving key stakeholders at national, sectoral, and local levels; and
 - **endorse** the outcomes of the 19th Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation on Mainstreaming biodiversity