

Pacific Environment Ministers' Declaration
Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands – 3rd October, 2014

The 25th Annual Meeting of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme was held from 30th September to 3rd October 2014 in Majuro, Republic of the Marshall Islands, with representation from American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, United States of America and Vanuatu.

Environment Ministers, Ministerial Representatives and Heads of Delegations adopted the following Declaration on 3rd October, 2014:

We, the Ministers, Ministerial Representatives and Heads of Delegations of the Pacific region responsible for the environment:

1. **NOTE** that the environment is essential to the sustainable development of Pacific island countries and territories but that there are many challenges to our Pacific environment, including climate change, unsustainable use of natural resources including illegal wildlife trade, waste management and pollution control and invasive species that need integrated responses, including through Ecosystem-based Adaptation.
2. **RECOGNISE** the vital importance of the Pacific Ocean to the livelihoods and sustainable economic development of the people of the Pacific, including through providing sustenance, protecting marine biodiversity and in regulating weather and climate variability, but concerned with the growing threats including overuse of resources, marine debris and the growing threats of ocean warming and ocean acidification.
3. **ENCOURAGE** the global community, through the UNEP Regional Seas Programme, the Pacific Oceanscape Framework and other initiatives to enhance efforts in addressing global, regional and local pressures on ocean and island ecosystems.
4. **CONTINUE TO HIGHLIGHT** the growing threats posed by climate change and sea level rise and shorter time scale extreme weather and climate events, and the importance of implementing practical adaptation strategies, disaster preparedness measures and actions to build the resilience of Pacific island countries, territories and their peoples.
5. **RECOGNISE** the importance of accessing global climate finance for adaptation and mitigation actions by Pacific island countries and territories, but **NOTE** the challenges we face in securing these finances. Thus, **WE CALL** on the Secretariat to support us in capacity building and financial assessment to enable us to be accredited to global financial mechanisms.
6. **ACKNOWLEDGING that the** efforts of all countries to adapt to climate change impacts would not be achieved if global warming exceeds 2°C, **WE CALL** on all of SPREP Members to support the Paris 2015 commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
7. **CONGRATULATE** the Government and people of Samoa for their outstanding hosting and Presidency of the Third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States, including the adoption of the *SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA)* Pathway, and request the strong support and partnership of the international community in its implementation.

8. **UNDERLINE** the importance of durable and genuine partnerships to address the many challenges facing the environment and sustainable development of the Pacific region, noting that these partnerships should include donors, development partners, private sector, civil society organisations, non-governmental organisations and faith-based organisations.
9. **RECALLING** the Majuro Declaration on Climate Leadership, which confirmed the responsibility of all to act urgently to reduce and phase down greenhouse gas pollution in order to avert a climate crisis for present and future generations, **COMMIT** to accelerating and strengthening our efforts to prepare for and adapt to the intensifying impacts of climate change.
10. **WELCOME** the commitments to the environment made by Leaders at the 45th Pacific Islands Forum and Post-Forum Dialogue in Palau and in particular, commitments to better conservation and management of the Pacific Ocean through the Palau Declaration *The Ocean: Life and Future - Charting a Course to Sustainability*, the continuing support for implementation of the *Framework for a Pacific Oceanscape* and the Pacific Ocean Alliance launched at the Third United Nations Conference on Small Island Developing States¹.
11. **ENCOURAGED** by the Leaders' support for Pacific efforts to combat invasive species, their noting of efforts by some Pacific countries and territories to address invasive species, and their call to development partners to support Pacific initiatives to prevent, control and eradicate invasive species.
12. **COMMEND** the draft *Strategy for Climate and Disaster Resilient Development in the Pacific* (SRDP) to guide resilient development through the mainstreaming of integrated climate change and disaster risks into political, social, ecological and economic development of Pacific island countries and territories. Further, we **WELCOME** the intended support from the European Union (EU), World Bank and other donors for the implementation of the SRDP and the proposed Pacific Resilience Partnership, and encourage all efforts to ensure the early adoption and implementation of the SRDP in the Pacific.
13. **RECOGNISE** the work carried out by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to strengthen environmental management and governance in partnership with Pacific island countries and territories and encourage further collaboration through the EU funded ACP MEAs Phase 2 project, the proposed GEF MEA capacity building project, and other relevant initiatives.
14. **CALL** on SPREP Members and partners to ensure that the *Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region 2014-2020*, is successfully implemented and note the outcomes of the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas convened in Fiji in December 2013, and look forward to the presentation of the Framework at the World Parks Congress in Sydney in November.
15. **RECOGNISE** the collective efforts to improve the management of solid and hazardous waste in the Pacific region and acknowledge that waste and pollution continues to be a major threat to the built and natural environment and to sustainable development and encourage all partners, including donors and development partners, civil society, the private sector, and governments to continue to support efforts to better manage waste and pollution.

We, the Ministers, Ministerial Representatives and Heads of Delegations of the Pacific region responsible for the environment sincerely thank the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the kind and outstanding hospitality extended to us during our stay in Majuro.

¹ Note: Fiji is suspended from the Pacific Islands Forum and not party to the Palau Declaration