



# **9<sup>th</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas**

**Natural Solutions  
Building Resilience for a Changing Pacific**

**Opening Comments  
Roundtable Chair**



# The future we want => The Pacific we NEED...



## *What is a sustainable Pacific Future?*

- *A Green/Blue Economy?*
  - *Our natural environment is intact and well managed*
  - *Our people are happy, healthy, knowledgeable... and our cultures thrive..*
  - *Our economy sustains us*
  - *Resilient and adapted to climate change*



# Changing circumstances....



- **Shift from threats ... to consequences**
  - CBD & Biodiversity
  - Climate Change
  - Food security...
  - Post Rio +20



# An “Extraordinary” Emphasis...



## **Fixing Environment: Nature based solutions:**

- Climate Change – resilience, protection
- Food Security
- Livelihoods

## **Strengthening Society: Long term reinforcement of Governance Systems**

- Communities
- Provincial
- National

Extraordinary emphasis on “green solutions” and pacific peoples...A green /blue economy is an economy adapted for climate change



## A new narrative – Valuing Nature

- Shift from Vulnerability to Value
  - Climate change lens - 10m people in 38m sq Km of healthy ocean
  - Per capita lens is not relevant



# Fisheries...



- More than Tuna.... Healthy ocean habitats
  - Support efforts for conservation and management
  - Large and small MPAs
  - Inshore Fisheries



# Rethinking National Priorities



- Is Management of our Natural Resources as important Education and Health?



# When nature is valued



- Redefine and reward productivity ... it is not all about “jobs”
- Critical Infrastructure also includes the natural source / supply – “nature’s infrastructure” must be part of the development solution
- “well being” as a national outcome should include livelihoods, health, inspiration and happiness.





# Conservation is about engaging people...



- Politicians, Business, Communities, faith based, civil society, etc.

## **Some lessons:**

- People will “settle” for short term gain...
- Societal change at any level requires long term engagement

## **We need**

- Leadership
- Develop long term integrated approaches in engaging communities



# Integration of approaches



- Within the conservation sector
  - Partnerships around national priorities
  - Target areas and communities
- With development sector (government, donors, private sector)
  - Health, education,
  - Roads, transportation,
  - Water, energy, agriculture



## This week



- Celebrate partnerships
- Refocus our roadmap....
- Rethink our engagement with Governments, partners, communities.