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.
IN A NUTSHELL

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**
- **3,345 Private Messages Sent**
- **77 Meetings in the Lounge**
- **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, intergovernmental 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.
WE ACCOMPLISHED ALL OUR GOALS

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.

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.

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.
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.


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**.
SHARING MANY EXPERIENCES

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
Alferreti TAWAKE
Aline SCHAFFAR
Allan RAHARI
Anais 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
Elliki SENIVASA
Elisapeti VEIKOSO
Elise HUFFER
Elizabeth ERASITO
Elizabeth MARUMA MREMA
Emily BEECH
Emily CORCORDAN
Emma DO KHAC
Fabien ALBOUY
First Lady Debbie REMENGEASA
Florent PITHON
Florian LE BAIL
Francesca MANCINI
Francis STAUB
Francois PRIOUL
Genevieve JIVA
Geraldine DATUIN
Gillian 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 DAVEYANIVALU
Jörn THEYERKAUF
Josef PISI
Josine TIAVOUANE
Justin WELBERGEN
Karen BAIRD
Karen MAPUSUA
Kate BROWN
Katharina NARGAR
Katherine MARTIN
Kosi LATU
Lea SCHERL
Livia ESTHERZAY
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
Melanie FARMAN
Mema MOTUSAGA
Miles YOUNG
Miliana AINGA
Milika SOBEY
Minnie RAFE
Monica GRUBBER
Myjolynne Kim
Nick SOUTER
Nunia THOMAS-MOKO
Oscar Javier GUEVARA AREVALO
Patrick LEHOEY
Patrick PIKACHA
Patrick WALSH
Paul ANDERSON
Paul VAN NIMWEGEN
Pauline FABRE
Pearl WINCHESTER
Pelenitaita KARA
Peter DAVIES
Peter THOMSON
Peter WALDIE
Philippe GERBEAUX
Philippe RENAUT
Pierre METSAN
Pres. Thierry SANTA
Prof. Ove HOEIH-GULDBERG
Puna RAKANUI
Rebecca SAMUELS
Reverend James BHAGWAN
Richard BALONE
Richard GRIFFITHS
Rosalie MASU
Roxanne BLESAM
Sangeeta MANGUBHAI
Schanne SAGELE VAN DIJKEN
Sebastien LAGARDE
Seilania NAVADRA
Selma HAOUET
Senilola TUIWAWA
Serge PLANES
Seto APO
Sheridan WAITAI
Simon MILNE
Simon NICOL
Simon VUTO
Slosinamele LUI
Siteri TIKOCA
Snydier BIZA
Stacy JUPITER
Stuart CHAPE
Susana WAQAINABATE-TUISESE
Suzie GREENHALGH
T. Ilihih GIONSON
Teina MACKENZIE
Thierry CANTERI
Thomas AUGER
Tiffany STRAHA
Trina LEBERER
Tyler NG CHUNG
Vainuapo JUNGBLUT
Van Duong DANG
Veira TALLIOTU
Victor DAVID
Villami 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
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.

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
More than 3,800 session views across all sessions

**3 plenary sessions, 22 parallel sessions, 12 sponsored sessions**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Opening Session: State of Conservation in the Pacific Islands</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Turning the Tide - Preparing Plastic Pollution in PICTs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Can Nature-based Solutions Achieve their Potential to Tackle Human?</td>
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<td>Valuing Biodiversity in the Pacific: the place of Identity, Traditional Knowledge, Education, Heritage and Cultural Expressions</td>
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<td>Deep Connections - Pacific Communities and Deep-Sea Mining</td>
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<td>How to Ensure the Transmission of Traditional Knowledge as a Way to Preserve Biodiversity in the Pacific?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Assessing the Risk of Turtle Extinction in the Pacific to Inform Regional Conservation Approaches</td>
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<tr>
<td>Which approaches to developing an integrated regional framework? SPC helping the Pacific region relieve social &amp; economic development with the protection of nature and culture</td>
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| Towards Greater Protection of our Pacific Marine Heritage      |
| Protecting and Restoring Terrestrial Ecosystems in the Pacific |
| Environmental Governance in the Pacific: Towards an Informed and Engaged Citizenry, and Rights for Nature |
| Mangroves, Coral Reefs, and Seagrass: Conserving Coastal Marine Habitats in the Pacific |
| Saving Paradise - Species by Species                          |
| Building Resilient Island Economies and Communities in the Pacific: Balancing Protection and Production |
| 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 |
| 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 |
| Measuring Success: What should we measure and how? Examples from Melanesia and Micronesia |
| 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 |

**All Session Recordings are available on the Conference Platform for 1 year (Conference Platform accessible through registration on Conference Website)**
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.
THE CONFERENCE WAS WELL COVERED BY REGIONAL AND PARTNER MEDIA
10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

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 is a conservation role and a frontline team round the globe, sharing experiences, wisdom and lessons learnt.

The Director of the National Trust of Fiji asked to share today on one of the many online sessions scheduled throughout the week. She joined other invited conservationists who also shared their expertise.

See more.
POSITIVE FEEDBACK FROM THE ATTENDEES’ EVALUATION

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

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

80% OF RESPONDENTS SAY WE REACHED OUR OBJECTIVES

Satisfied with:
- Conference website (97%)
- Plenary sessions (73%)
- Registration procedure (91%)
- Event feed on the Platform (87%)
- Meeting on the Platform (69%)
- General management in 2 languages (English and French) (78%)

Satisfied with Conference newsletters (87%)
- Variety of parallel sessions (91%)
- Login on Platform (87%)
- Agenda on the Platform (91%)
- Information on Attendees on the Platform (78%)

Satisfied with Conference social media (78%)
- Parallel sessions’ presentations (94%)
- Lounge on the Platform (55%)
- Exhibition on the Platform (84%)
- Information on Speakers on the Platform (81%)
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 WE LEARNED FROM THIS EVENT AND RECOMMEND FOR FUTURE EVENTS

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

- **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

- **... 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!
"We are all connected, and ultimately, we are all just visitors on this planet."
~ First Lady Debbie Remengeo, the First Lady of Palau

"If we don’t address the threat, we are wasting money with restoration"
~ Dr Gillanne Bradie
USP-IAS Deputy Director

"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 issues, and pave an inheritance that our children, and their children will have the capacity to and will be proud to steward onward.
~ Naomi Thomas-Molu, Director of Nature\'s Trust Cook Islands

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

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 PIPT Chair
THANK YOU!
FOR MAKING THE CONFERENCE
A SUCCESS!
WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT
WITHOUT YOU!