



CIRCULAR

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TO: SPREP Environment Ministers
Heads of Organisations of PIRT

DATE: 9 October 2020

CIRCULAR: 20/81

SUBJECT: High-level Declaration: 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas

Dear Honorable Ministers and Heads of Organisations of PIRT,

On behalf of the the Government of New Caledonia, the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) and SPREP, I am pleased to share with you the attached draft High-level Declaration, which will be one of the key outcomes of the 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conservation Conference and Protected Areas to be held virtually 24–27 November 2020.

The High-level Segment, which is organised by the Government of New Caledonia as the Conference host, will be held on **26 November 2020**. This important meeting will be attended by government Ministers and Heads of Organisations of the PIRT members. An official invitation with additional details, including the agenda, will be circulated in due course by the host country.

The high-level Declaration aligns to the new Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands Region and aims at setting new biodiversity regional priorities that can be voiced at significant events including the 15th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD COP15), the IUCN World Conservation Congress and Our Ocean Conference to be convened in 2021.

The Declaration highlights the urgent need for transformative action and recognises commitments to address the root causes of biodiversity loss across our ocean and our islands by the Pacific people.

We invite SPREP Member countries and territories, and PIRT member organisations, to consider whether they would like to make commitments to the implementation of the Declaration as statements during the High-level Segment. If there is interest in making statements, we will design the programme accordingly.

Please send your expressions of interest and any comments by email to kosil@sprep.org and copy pacificconference2020@sprep.org before **2 November, 2020**, and also indicate if you may consider stating a commitment during the segment.

Further information on the 10th Pacific Islands Nature Conservation Conference and Protected Areas can be found on the website www.pacificnatureconference.com.

Sincerely,

Kosi Latu
Director General