



CIRCULAR

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TO: SPREP National Focal Points

DATE: 11 November 2020

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SUBJECT: **Call for Expressions of Interest to Host the 11th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 2025**

Dear Members,

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP) is inviting Members to submit an Expression of Interest to host the 11th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in 2025.

Conference Background

The Nature Conservation and Protected Areas conference has become the principle conference of government agencies, NGOs, community-based organisations, donor agencies, youth and individual experts concerned with conservation science and practice in the Pacific islands region.

Each conference has generated a Framework or Action Strategy as a guiding document for nature conservation for the following years. The Framework is the key over-arching and cross-cutting strategy for biodiversity conservation in the Pacific islands region. It is an important guide for Pacific island countries and territory governments, NGOs and regional organisations to better align and harmonise their work around an agreed conservation strategy that meets both global and national objectives and can be used to leverage funds from donor partners.

The 10th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas is hosted by the Government of New Caledonia, the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) and SPREP. The key outcomes of the Conference include a Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021 – 2025, Regional State of Environment and Conservation report and an endorsed High-level Declaration.

Criteria for Host Country

The Conference is a week-long event and SPREP is looking for a suitable venue to host approximately 500 – 800 participants. This estimate is based on previous conferences held in Papua New Guinea in 2007, attended by around 400 participants, the conference held in Fiji in 2013 was attended by 800 participants and the conference in New Caledonia, 2020 was expecting 500 – 600 participants, although it is now a virtual event with more than 900 participants.

Over the past decade, there has been increasing recognition both regionally and globally of the importance and relevance of the conference. The Conference provides an opportunity for the diverse stakeholders to develop a Pacific initiated agenda which are voiced at significant and key events including the Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD),



Pacific Islands Forum Leader's Meeting, IUCN World Conservation Congress and the United Nations Ocean Conference.

Criteria

Members who wish to submit their nomination as the Conference host country or territory, must fulfil the following criteria:

- Provide a suitable plenary venue that can seat at least 500 – 700 participants.
- Have facilities adjoining the main venue, or close by, for smaller break-out groups and workshops for up to 100 participants each.
- Availability of a range of accommodation options close to the venue to accommodate all visiting participants.
- Provision of suitable public transport (buses, taxis) or organized transport.

Responsibilities of Host Country

- Establish a National Steering Committee to provide overall coordination and ensure that all conference arrangements are in place in advance of the event, including suitable plenary and workshop venues.
- Chair and provide secretariat for the National Steering Committee and coordinate all required government agencies, ministries and departments involved in this committee and the conference.
- Supply in-kind contributions which will include personnel to assist conference SPREP Secretariat staff. This will include responsibility for national fundraising (through sponsorship opportunities) to recover costs associated with hosting.
- Coordinate with local businesses, government departments and venue on matters relating to accommodation, food and beverages options, transport and other logistical matters.
- Provide relevant information to SPREP and the Regional Planning Committee (comprising members of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation) as required relating to all the above matters.
- Organise and meet the costs associated with; conference venue and equipment hire, opening and closing ceremonies, all airport arrangements for delegates, transportation, cultural and lunchtime entertainment and ensuring services (utilities, healthcare, printing and photocopying, internet access, security etc.) for the event.
- Contribute to all interpretation and translation costs if it is desirable to run the conference bilingually in English and another language.
- Organise protocol arrangements for delegates of diplomatic status from PICTs and international organisations. Ensure appropriate information relating to visas for all delegates is available and the processes are as expedient as possible.

Full responsibilities will be negotiated by SPREP and the host country after the selection process, and a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) will be developed.

To submit an expression of interest to host the 11th Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, please send a response addressing the criteria and responsibilities to sprep@sprep.org.



An announcement of the next host can be made during the closing of the 10th Pacific Islands Conference for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas on **26 November 2020**.

Please contact Amanda Wheatley amandaw@sprep.org or Juney Ward juneyw@sprep.org for further clarification if needed.

Yours sincerely,

Kosi Latu
Director General / Secretariat of PIRT

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