

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation Newsletter

“ Natural Solutions: Building resilience for a changing Pacific”



Photo|Stuart Chape 2015

Welcome Message

Taholo Kami, Chair of Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation



Photo|UCN 2015

A warm welcome to you!

Welcome to the official electronic newsletter of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT).

The Roundtable News is aimed to provide an update of the extensive work carried out by the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation members, PIRT Working Groups and networks .

The Roundtable News will be distributed on a half yearly basis and in the near future on a quarterly routine. It will be highlighting the conservation efforts in the Pacific region, updates from progress in science and technology, sustainable management of natural resources, diversified and multi-disciplinary approaches to conservation activities, traditional knowledge and practical measures relevant to the Pacific.

In addition to this, **The Roundtable News** will boost our local, regional and international partnership disseminating knowledge to all members, Working Groups and will be freely available to the general public through the PIRT website.

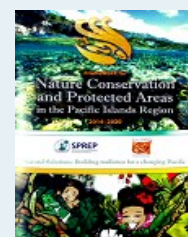
Please feel free to provide your feedback to the PIRT Team and we look forward to your support towards **The Roundtable News!**

Inside this issue

- Highlights of PIRT Side Event.....1-2
- PIP in Focus.....3
- Launch of PIPAP at World Parks Congress..3
- Introducing PIRT Coordinator.....4

Special points of interest

- Grant Openings
- Important Upcoming Events
- To obtain a copy of the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island Region 2014-2020 please click on the image below:



Highlights of PIRT Side Event



Photo|SPREP 2015: Stuart Chape (PIRT Secretariat Representative) and Leilani Duffy-Iosefa (Conservation International)

Conservation International and PIRT Sign PIRT Membership Agreement for 2015

The 26th Annual Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Meeting marked an important juncture for the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) as Conservation International (CI) was officially welcomed as the Eighth Member of the Roundtable upon signing the PIRT Membership Agreement. The signing of the Agreement was an integral part of the side event. The PIRT Membership Agreement was signed by Mrs. Leilani Duffy Iosefa on behalf of CI which was witnessed by Mr. Stuart Chape, representative of the PIRT Secretariat. To read more on the event, please visit the official PIRT website link below: <https://www.sprep.org/pacific-island-roundtable-for-nature-conservation/events>.

About PIRT

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) is a coalition of nature conservation and development organisations, governments, inter-governmental organisations, donor agencies and community groups created to increase effective conservation actions in the Pacific Island Region. Formed in 1997 at the request of Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), the forum enables organisations working on nature conservation in the Pacific to improve their collaboration and coordination towards effective conservation action and stands as the key coordination mechanism for the implementation of the [Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Island Region 2014-2020 \(FNCPA\)](#) which was adopted at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas and was subsequently endorsed at the 25th Annual SPREP Meeting 2014.

PIRT Side Event an Initiative of the Protected Areas Working Group (PAWG)

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT) Side Event titled "*Size Matters! Lessons learnt in going to scale in Pacific Marine Protected Areas (MPAs)*", was an initiative of the Protected Areas Working Group (PAWG) of the Roundtable co-organised by both the PIRT Secretariat, Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and Conservation International (CI). Held at the Tanoa Tusitala Hotel on the 23rd of September at the 26th Annual SPREP Meeting, the lunch hour event had an overwhelming response.



Photo|SPREP 2015: Presenting at the PIRT Side Event, Joseph Brider

There were three reputed and distinguished presenters at the event namely Ms. Anne Claire Goarant of Regional Cooperation and External Affairs, New Caledonia, Mr. Schannel van Dijken, the Senior Marine Manager of the CI, Samoa and Mr. Joseph Brider, the Director of National Environment Service, Cook Islands. Interesting discussions on the marine protected areas and extra large marine reserves were carried out on what was most suitable and applicable for the Pacific region.

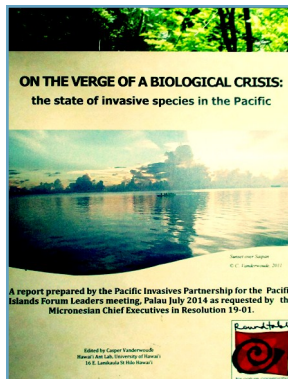
Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) in Focus

The Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) is the largest and most active Working Group of the Roundtable. PIP is the umbrella regional coordinating body for agencies working on invasive species in more than one country of the Pacific.

The goal of PIP is to assist Pacific island countries and territories in achieving more effective invasive species management which PIP and its member organisations carry out by building local capacity and helping to tackle Pacific invasives problems. This includes coordinated planning and assistance from regional and international agencies to meet the invasive species management needs of the countries and territories in the Pacific. The Guidelines for Invasive Species Management in the Pacific provide the framework for action by all of the PIP member agencies and has been endorsed by 26 Pacific countries and territories.

Amongst their many success stories, PIP recent report which was launched through a side event at the 2014 Pacific Island Leaders Forum, *On the Verge of a Biological Crisis: The state of invasive species in the Pacific* highlighted the serious issue of invasive species and some solutions specifically for the Pacific.

To obtain further information on the work carried out by the Pacific Invasives Partnership, please visit the official PIP website below: <https://www.sprep.org/Pacific-Invasives-Partnership/invasive-partnerships>.



Launch of PIPAP at World Parks Congress



The Protected Areas Working Group (PAWG) was reconvened on the 4th of March 2015, in response to the need to provide a forum to better connect a diverse range of people and their work relating to protected and conserved areas. The PAWG is another Working Group of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation with an extensive partnership within the region and internationally. To increase efficacy with respect to gaining momentum with communications and conservation work, the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP) was launched at the World Parks Congress in Sydney, 2014 through PAWG. This portal had

recently shifted to a new address with additional features in October, 2015 and can be accessed through this link, <http://pipap.sprep.org>.



Info Bits

Grant Openings

- Global Greengrants Fund, email contact: info@greengrants.org
- Saltonstall-Kennedy Competitive Research Program, check website: http://www.fpir.noaa.gov/Grants_grants_avail.html
- Community-based Marine Debris Removal, check website: <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants>

Important Upcoming Events

1. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Council has selected Hawaii, United States of America, as the host of the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress; the world's largest conservation event beginning from the 1-10th September, 2016 at the Hawaii Convention Center, to read further visit, <http://www.iucn.org/?14840/Hawaii-to-host-the-next-IUCN-World-Conservation-Congress>
2. The European Space Agency recently announced the organisation of their forthcoming Living Planet Symposium (LPS) 2016 that will take place in Prague, Czech Republic, from 9 to 13 May 2016, visit website at <http://remote-sensing-biodiversity.org/biodiversity-session-at-the-esa-living-planet-symposium/>
3. Oceans Day will be held on the sidelines of the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties (COP 21) to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) from 4th December, 2015 in Paris, Ile-De-France, to read more open link <http://nr.iisd.org/events/oceans-day-at-unfccc-cop-21/>

Introducing PIRT Coordinator



Photo|Panama 2015: Payal Maharaj

Payal Nandini Maharaj, is a Fijian citizen and has recently joined SPREP under the Young Professionals Programme as the Coordinator of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservations (PIRTC). She is additionally, a professional associate of the East West Center through the Pacific Islands Leadership Programme (PILP G2) fellowship and an associate fellow of the Royal Commonwealth Society. She has recently completed her Masters degree on Climate Change with special focus on bioactive Marine Natural Products, graduating from The University of the South Pacific. A true conservationist in the making, Payal is determined to improve and provide progression to the current and future efforts of conservation right from the grassroot level to the policy level.

Contact Information for PIRT (Roundtable):

PIRT Chair

Taholo Kami
Regional Director (IUCN)
Email: Taholo.Kami@iucn.org

Address:
IUCN Oceania Regional Office,
5 Ma'afu Street,
Private Mail Bag,
Suva, Fiji

Phone: (+679) 3319084
Fax: (+679) 3100128

PIRT Secretariat

Easter Galuvao
Email: easterg@sprep.org

Payal Maharaj
Email: payalm@sprep.org

Address:
PO Box 240,
Apia, Samoa
Landline: (+685) 21929

Email: pirtsecretariat@sprep.org
PIRT Website:
<https://www.sprep.org/pirt>

PIRT Working Groups

Protected Area Working Group (PAWG)
Email: amandaw@sprep.org

Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP)
Email: phillip_andreozzi@ios.doi.gov

Pacific Network on Environmental Law (PaNEL)
Email: bj.kim@edonsw.org.au

Species Working Group (SWG)
Email: helen.pippard@iucn.org



Photo|Stuart Chape 2015



Photo|Stuart Chape 2015



Photo|Stuart Chape 2015