

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

Nature Conservation Action in the Pacific

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SPREP PROE

BirdLife INTERNATIONAL

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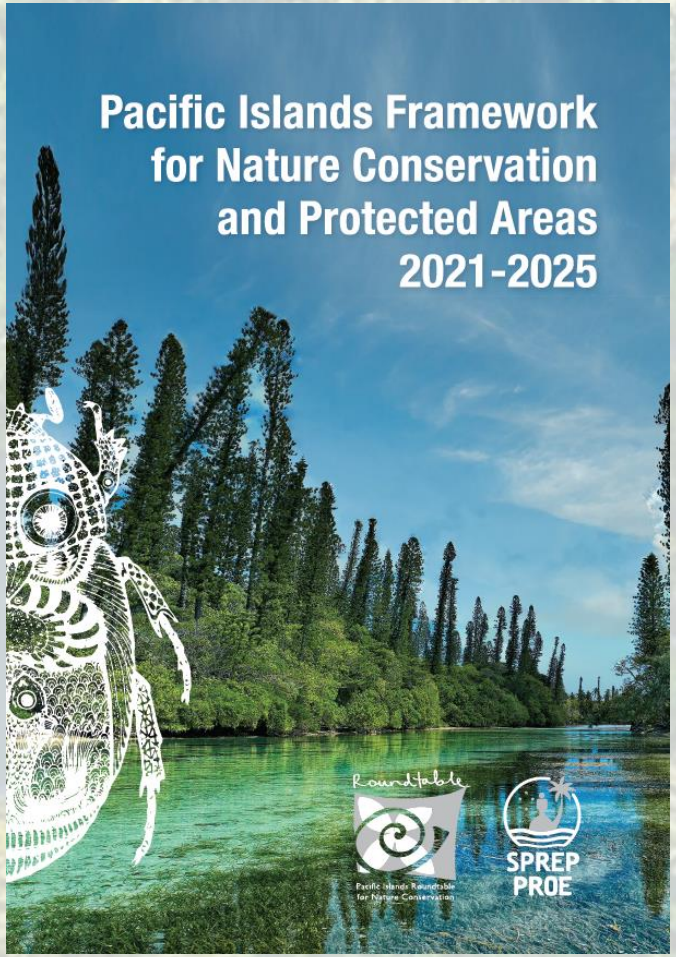
ACP MEAs 3

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT)

- PIRT is a coalition of nature conservation and development organisations created in 1998 to increase effective conservation action in the Pacific Islands region.
- There are currently 14 formal organisational members of PIRT, both intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations.
- PIRT also has five Working Groups to increase collaboration on key conservation issues in the Pacific:
  - Pacific Invasives Partnership
  - Protected Areas Working Group
  - Species Working Group
  - Pacific Network on Environmental Law
  - Nature Culture Working Group

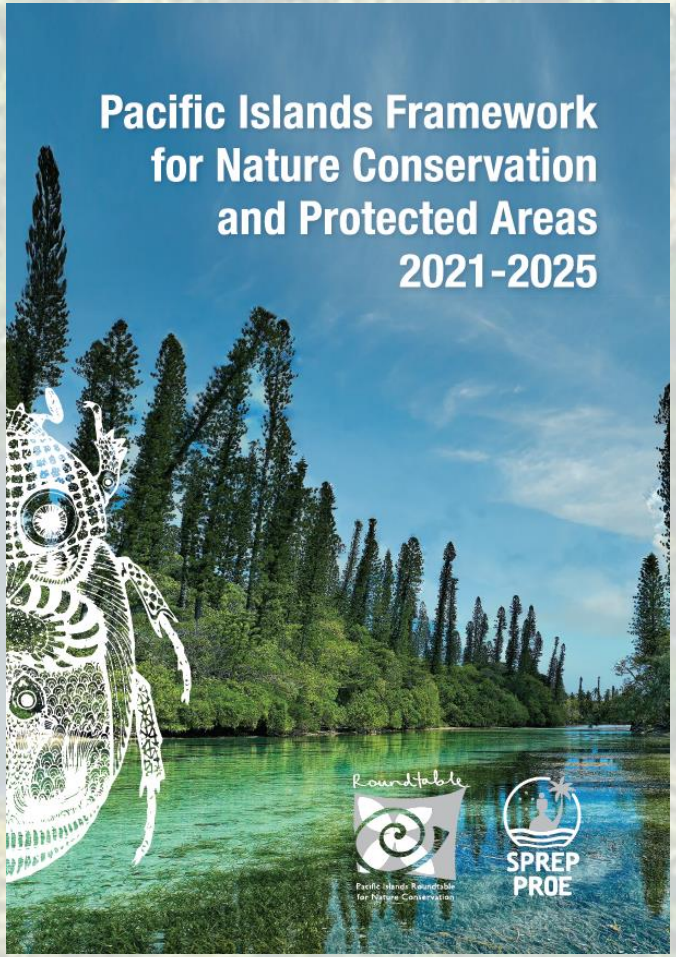
Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025

- The Framework is our regional Pacific strategy for nature conservation. It reflects the urgent need for coordinated action to address the threats to our Pacific environments, cultures, communities, and economies.
- It is the latest in a series of frameworks and action strategies that are endorsed by 22 Pacific Island countries and territories, as well as by PIRT member organisations.
- PIRT is mandated by Pacific governments to promote, monitor, and report on the implementation of the Framework.



Who is the regional Framework for?

- The Framework is for any organisation, community or individual involved in nature conservation in the Pacific, and is owned by all these collectively.
  - Pacific governments and public sector agencies
  - Funders
  - Intergovernmental organisations
  - NGOs
  - Private sector organisations
  - Pacific communities and civil society
- The purpose of the Framework to provide broad strategic guidance for conservation initiatives undertaken by all stakeholders in the Pacific region.



Key features of the regional Framework: Principles for Conservation Implementation

- The eight Principles are a code of conduct for implementing conservation initiatives in Pacific contexts.
- The Principles are designed as a guide for designing, establishing, delivering and sustaining conservation in the Pacific. They specify the responsibilities of different types of organisations and stakeholders.
- They apply to all conservation initiatives undertaken in the Pacific region, not only those specifically linked to the Framework.
- The Framework provides detailed guidance about what each Principle entails in a Pacific context.



Key features of the regional Framework: Strategic Objectives 2021-2025

- The six *Strategic Objectives* are broad priorities for nature conservation action in the Pacific. Their purpose is to provide a coordinated strategic approach to conservation across jurisdictions in the Pacific region.
- The Strategic Objectives are not prescriptive. Decisions around national goals, targets and indicators for their implementation remain the responsibility of Pacific governments, supported by their partners.
- However, the Framework does give guidance regarding the best practice 'how to' for implementing the Strategic Objectives. This best practice is organised within 21 thematic Action Tracks.

1. Empower our people to take action for nature conservation, based on our understanding of nature's importance for our cultures, economies, and communities.
2. Integrate environmental and cultural considerations into the goals, processes, and trajectories of economic development in the Pacific.
3. Identify, conserve, sustainably manage and restore ecosystems, habitats, and priority natural and cultural sites.
4. Protect and recover threatened species and preserve genetic diversity, focusing on those of particular ecological, cultural and economic significance.
5. Manage and reduce threats to Pacific environments and drivers of biodiversity loss.
6. Grow Pacific capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.

Strategic Objective 6

Grow Pacific capacity and partnerships to effectively monitor, govern and finance nature conservation action.

Priority action tracks	Key challenges	Overview of best practice	Examples of key partners and programmes
Science and traditional knowledge for target-setting and monitoring	• There are regional challenges in the capacity to collect, analyse, interpret and share data for diverse audiences and decision making. • Relevant regional indicators are needed that can be used to inform real time decision making for adaptive management. • The expertise of local people in the theory and practice of conservation often goes unrecognised. • It is very difficult to quantify the importance of nature for people within national or regional indicators. • Regional indicators that draw on data from diverse environmental and cultural contexts may risk oversimplify complex trends. • Significant financial, capacity, and institutional barriers remain for Pacific islanders wishing to undertake training or become employed in nature conservation.	• All parties should support the development of domestic and community-level monitoring capacity, including monitoring based on cultural indicators and traditional, indigenous and local knowledge. Where appropriate this data should feed into national and regional knowledge management systems. • All parties must safeguard the rights of Pacific communities to make informed decisions about when and how target-setting and monitoring will occur, and must likewise uphold indigenous sovereignty over locally derived environmental and cultural information. This is especially important at the design phase of conservation initiatives. • Centralised data services should be utilised to assist with monitoring and evaluation of conservation and management activities, and to provide accessible data for environmental management. • Agencies and their partners should collaborate for information collection and analysis, reporting, and open and timely sharing of environmental information. • All parties should plan for sustained environmental reporting in changing conditions, including preparedness and disaster risk management. • All parties must support Pacific island scientists and knowledge holders, and ensure transmission of knowledge by supporting or establishing paid positions for indigenous knowledge holders within nature conservation initiatives.	• TNC Voice, Choice and Action Framework • USP-PEUMP research programmes • SPREP-PEUMP community engagement in the planning and implementation of Rapid Biodiversity Assessments (BIORAPS); Ecosystem and Socio-economic Resilience Analysis and Mapping (ESRAM) and Integrated Ecosystem Management Planning • UN Decade of Ocean Science
Governance that works for nature conservation	• There are regional challenges in ensuring accountability and transparency in governance processes. • Within Pacific governments, environment agencies are often understaffed and have high rates of turnover. • Across the Pacific there is insufficient institutional and financial capacity for effective environmental governance. • There are complex jurisdiction issues for transboundary hazards, or species that rely on both land and sea habitats. • Transparency and accountability in decision making remains a challenge, at all scales of governance and within all kinds of organisations. • In many cases processes for engaging with Pacific communities remain inadequate, including ensuring free, prior, and informed consent for conservation initiatives. • Existing national, regional, and global legal frameworks may be insufficient to address the Pacific's current environmental crises.	• Pacific island countries and territories should strengthen existing national and regional legal frameworks, and give due weight to the enforcement of environmental considerations across ministries and regional agencies. Where appropriate, the influence of environmental ministries in government decision making should be strengthened. • Transparency and accountability should be strengthened by establishing systems for free access to information on decision making, and by resourcing independent regulatory bodies where appropriate. • Government agencies and their partner organisations must ensure that conservation partnerships enhance the implementation of local, regional, and international laws and agreements as well as new and existing programme linkages. • All parties must contribute towards accountable, transparent and courageous political leadership for addressing ultimate and proximate threats to biodiversity: both domestically, within our region, and as a strong Blue Pacific voice in global negotiations. • Regional ocean governance should continue to be integrated across national jurisdictions. • Pacific island countries and territories, and their partners, should explore novel articulations of environmental law appropriate to their contexts, including legal recognition of the inherent rights, voice, and agency of natural entities as understood by the indigenous peoples of the Pacific.	• ACP Multilateral Environmental Agreements programme • IUCN Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance (PCEG) • Micronesia Conservation Trust/PIMPAC environmental law fellowship • Bilateral support from partner countries to support MEA implementation • BirdLife Local Engagement and Empowerment programme and Capacity Development programme • SPC-SPREP-USP Global Climate Change Alliance Plus - Scaling up Pacific Adaptation project

Appendix A: Linkages to selected global and regional targets and goals

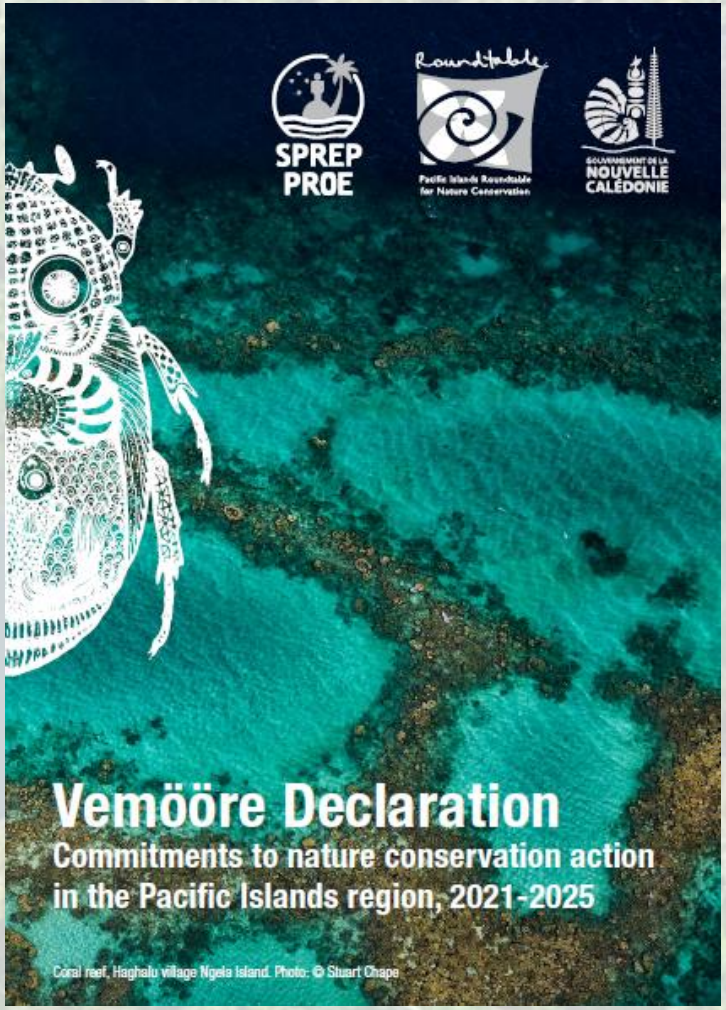
Table 1: Alignment between the Strategic Objectives of the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021-2025 and other important global and regional frameworks. The Appendix does not imply that the goals or targets of these other frameworks are directly transferable as goals or targets for the Strategic Objectives.

Strategic Objectives 2021-2025	Linkages to post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework[4]	Linkages to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (Sustainable Development Goals)
Strategic Objective 1: Empower people to take action for nature conservation, based on their understanding of its importance for Pacific cultures, economies, and communities.	**2050 Goals** **Goal B:** Nature's contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting global development agenda for the benefit of all people. **Goal C:** The benefits, from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably. **Goal D:** Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework. **2030 Targets** **Target 12:** By 2030, increase by [X] benefits shared for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity through ensuring access to and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from utilization of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. **Target 15:** By 2030, eliminate unsustainable consumption patterns, ensuring people everywhere understand and appreciate the value of biodiversity, and thus make responsible choices commensurate with 2050 biodiversity vision, taking into account individual and national cultural and socioeconomic conditions.	**SDG 4.7:** By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development. **SDG 5.5:** Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision making in political, economic and public life. **SDG 5.A:** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws. **SDG 6.B:** Support and strengthen the participation of local communities in improving water and sanitation management. **SDG 12.8:** By 2030, ensure that people everywhere have the relevant information and awareness for sustainable development and lifestyles in harmony with nature. **SDG 13.3:** Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning.
	Target 19: By 2030, ensure that quality information, including traditional knowledge, is available to decision makers and public for the effective management of biodiversity through promoting awareness, education and research. **Target 20:** By 2030, ensure equitable participation in decision-making related to biodiversity and ensure rights over relevant resources of indigenous peoples and local communities, women and girls as well as youth, in accordance with national circumstances.	**SDG 15.6:** Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed. **SDG 16.7:** Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels. **SDG 16.10:** Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements.
Strategic Objective 2: Integrate environmental and cultural considerations into the goals, processes, and trajectories of economic development in the Pacific.	**2050 Goals** **Goal B:** Nature's contributions to people have been valued, maintained or enhanced through conservation and sustainable use supporting global development agenda for the benefit of all people. **Goal C:** The benefits, from the utilization of genetic resources are shared fairly and equitably. **Goal D:** Means of implementation are available to achieve all goals and targets in the framework. **2030 Targets** **Target 8:** By 2030, ensure benefits, including nutrition, food security, livelihoods, health and well-being, for people, especially for the most vulnerable through sustainable management of wild species of fauna and flora. **Target 9:** By 2030, support the productivity, sustainability and resilience of biodiversity in agricultural and other managed ecosystems through conservation and sustainable use of such ecosystems, reducing productivity gaps by at least [50%].	**SDG 1.4:** By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance **SDG 1.5:** By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters. **SDG 2.4:** By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality. **SDG 5.A:** Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws.

The Vemööre Declaration:

Commitments to nature conservation action in the Pacific Islands region 2021-2025

- A call to action adopted by the governments of 14 Pacific Island countries and territories; endorsed by New Zealand, Australia, and France, and by the 14 member organisations of PIRT.
- Calls for global action to address the interdependent crises of biodiversity loss, ecosystem degradation and climate change.
- Acknowledges that the COVID-19 pandemic is a stark reminder of the dependency of all our societies on healthy and resilient natural ecosystems.
- Recognises and commits to implementing 21 priority Action Tracks by 2025 to ensure the recovery and flourishing of nature and people in the Pacific.



PIRT Implementation and Monitoring Plan for the 2021-2025 Framework

- A plan of action for the implementation and monitoring of the regional Framework by the Members and Working Groups of PIRT. Its purpose is to identify key strands of collective work towards this implementation, and to detail priority activities and tasks to be carried out by PIRT.
- Focuses the collective work of PIRT Members and Working Groups. It does not provide guidance on the implementation of the Framework by parties external to the Roundtable.

PIRT Implementation and Monitoring Plan

- The plan identifies three key strands of work for the Roundtable:
  1) Collaboration to influence the conservation-development agenda
  2) Collaboration to guide and influence conservation action
  3) Collaboration to secure sustainable funding for conservation

- Each strand of work includes details of initial planned activities for the period 2021-2025.

PIRT initial activities 2021-2025 (1)

Strand 1: Collaboration to influence the conservation-development agenda

1) Produce regular, coordinated joint policy briefs/position papers corresponding to elements of the Framework.
2) Strategically engage as a collective in discussions at regional fora with governments and regional bodies.
3) Facilitate targeted dialogues with 'non-conservation' organisations and sectors.
4) Strategically widen PIRT membership.
5) Build capacity within PIRT for coordination and longevity.

PIRT initial activities 2021-2025 (2)

Strand 2: Collaboration to guide and influence conservation action

1) Strengthen the role of PIRT Working Groups in knowledge exchange and providing guidance to the wider Pacific conservation community.

Strand 3: Collaboration to secure sustainable funding for conservation

1) Facilitate regular updates from donor organisations about upcoming funding opportunities.
2) Effectively monitor the work of the Roundtable towards the implementation of the 2021-2025 Framework.

Monitoring our implementation of the Framework

The Monitoring and Implementation Plan includes reporting templates for PIRT Members and Working Groups regarding their implementation of the Framework.

These will be completed annually to provide a picture of progress by PIRT towards the Principles and Strategic Objectives of the Framework, as well as collaboration and coordination across the region.

	PIRT Members	PIRT Working Groups
Reporting elements	Organisational alignment with Framework Principles	Membership and engagement
	Programme alignment with Framework Strategic Objectives	Activities and outputs
	Relationship with PIRT	Relationship with PIRT
Reporting frequency	Annual	Annual

PIRT Work Plan 2022-2023

ACTIVITY	TASKS	RESPONSIBILITY	2022				2023			
Strand 1: Collaboration to influence the conservation-development agenda			Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1 Produce regular, coordinated joint policy briefs/position papers corresponding to elements of the Framework.	Scope priority issues for initial policy brief; formation of co-authorship group.	Coordinator								
	Drafting of initial brief.	Co-authors								
	Publication and promotion through collective networks.	All PIRT								
	Regular publication following established process (at least biannual).	Coordinator + YP								
1.2 Engage as a collective in discussions at regional fora with countries and regional bodies.	Identification of priority regional fora for PIRT engagement.	Coordination team								
	Ongoing engagement as appropriate, led by delegated person/organisation with agreement of other Members.	All PIRT								
1.3 Facilitate targeted dialogues with 'non-conservation' organisations and sectors.	Scope priority sectors and stakeholders for dialogues.	Coordinator								
	Initial dialogue event, facilitated online between PIRT and relevant sectoral organisations.	All PIRT, facilitated by coordination team								
	Regular dialogues following established process (~biannual).	Coordinator + YP								
1.4 Strategically widen PIRT membership.	Scope potential new members and priority organisations to develop closer working relationships with.	Coordination team								
	Invite relevant organisations to join as members or take part in activities as appropriate (ongoing activity).	All PIRT								