

# Suva communiqué on the Pacific Soil Partnership

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*Suva, Fiji, 13<sup>th</sup> October 2014*

## Background statement

We, the soil community from 12 Pacific countries and universities, research institutes, SPC and FAO with an interest in advancing sustainable soil management, education and awareness, research, information, knowledge and standards in the Pacific have assembled in Suva, Fiji on the 13 October 2014 to explore opportunities and applications of the Global Soil Partnership (GSP) in the region and to agree on how a Pacific Soil Partnership might be established.

## Credits, acknowledgements and hosting

The meeting was hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and held in Suva, Fiji, and supported by FAO, SPC, CSIRO (Australia) and Landcare Research (New Zealand).

## Who we are and what we bring

We bring knowledge and experience of the soil and land use of this large and diverse portion of the globe that we share and a history of working in partnership in the region. We recognize the benefits to be gained from further sharing our concerns, progress, science, information and data on the use and protection of the soil, improvement in its management and productivity and in our programs for capacity development.

## What we discussed

During the day's discussions, we highlighted the many challenges the communities face in soil management and food production. The region's soils are diverse and vulnerable. Through joint activity we intend to maintain and improve productivity, share resources and information, in order to increase local food production and food quality, achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation, control land degradation and improve environmental management. New initiatives in training and education are needed to find solutions that improve livelihoods. The five pillars of the GSP provided a focus for these discussions.

## What we concluded

Across the region, there is substantial variation in soil resources, threats to soil function, information, capacity, investment and environmental challenges. By working together, we intend to improve soil security and benefit from enhanced regional cooperation. The region can use the five GSP pillars to reduce disparities and focus investment and collaboration on the key needs.

## What the partnership should focus on (or why the partnership)

We consider the priorities of this partnership should be:

1. Sharing and developing appropriate soil management solutions noting the particular challenges for atoll islands
2. Increasing soil literacy
3. Building local and regional capacity, grounded in our cultural context
4. Designing efficient and effective methods for soil analysis that are locally appropriate and robust
5. Enhancing coverage of soil information, collating legacy data and developing more usable forms
6. Ensuring soil information security to protect regional data assets against loss
7. Sharing capacity including laboratories, portals and extension resources

## The formation action

To achieve these goals, we agreed to establish the “Pacific Soil Partnership” and support the vision and mission of Global Soil Partnership (GSP).

## Initial actions and governance

The Pacific Soil Partnership will be hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) given appropriate resources. The SPC will convene an annual meeting of the partnership or as otherwise necessary.

We note that each member country remains a member of the GSP separately and that our institutions can be members.

The meeting recommends that the SPC becomes a formal partner of the GSP.


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List of signatures

 (INDEE RATUKALON)

 (NEIL MCKENZIE)

 [Gavin Wall]


 [James Barringer]

Charles L. BARNIER

 (Tokintekai Batineti)

Emil Ah -  (Maria E-Ratutokarua)

Viliorea (Viliamu Tese)



 [MIKE GRUNDY]


N S Tuivavale (Nacanieli S. Tuivavale)

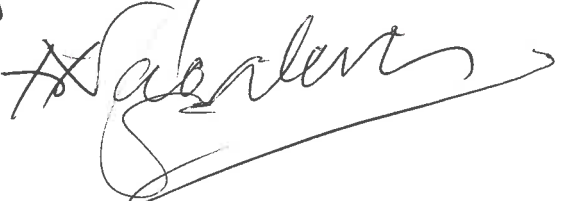
Ofuntse (Tilafono David Hunter)

 ALISON COLLINS

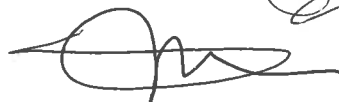
 PIERRE ROUSSEL

 (Gilbert Levana Vanua)  (Kiro mele)

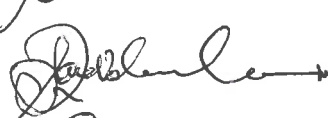
 (Simon Iro Sefa)

PATIA NAGALEVA 

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 Vitiaini T. MANU

 SOLO. NAGAUNAVOU. (FIJI)

 Mua Tausie