



## **International Day for Biodiversity, 2022**

### **Statement from Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT)**

Earth is shaped by islands. Our 21 island members harbour 10 per cent of the world's ocean, the largest driver of global climate. Half of the global tuna catch, 27 per cent of the world's coral reefs, and every single Polynesian sandalwood or lowlands tree kangaroo depends on Pacific islands.

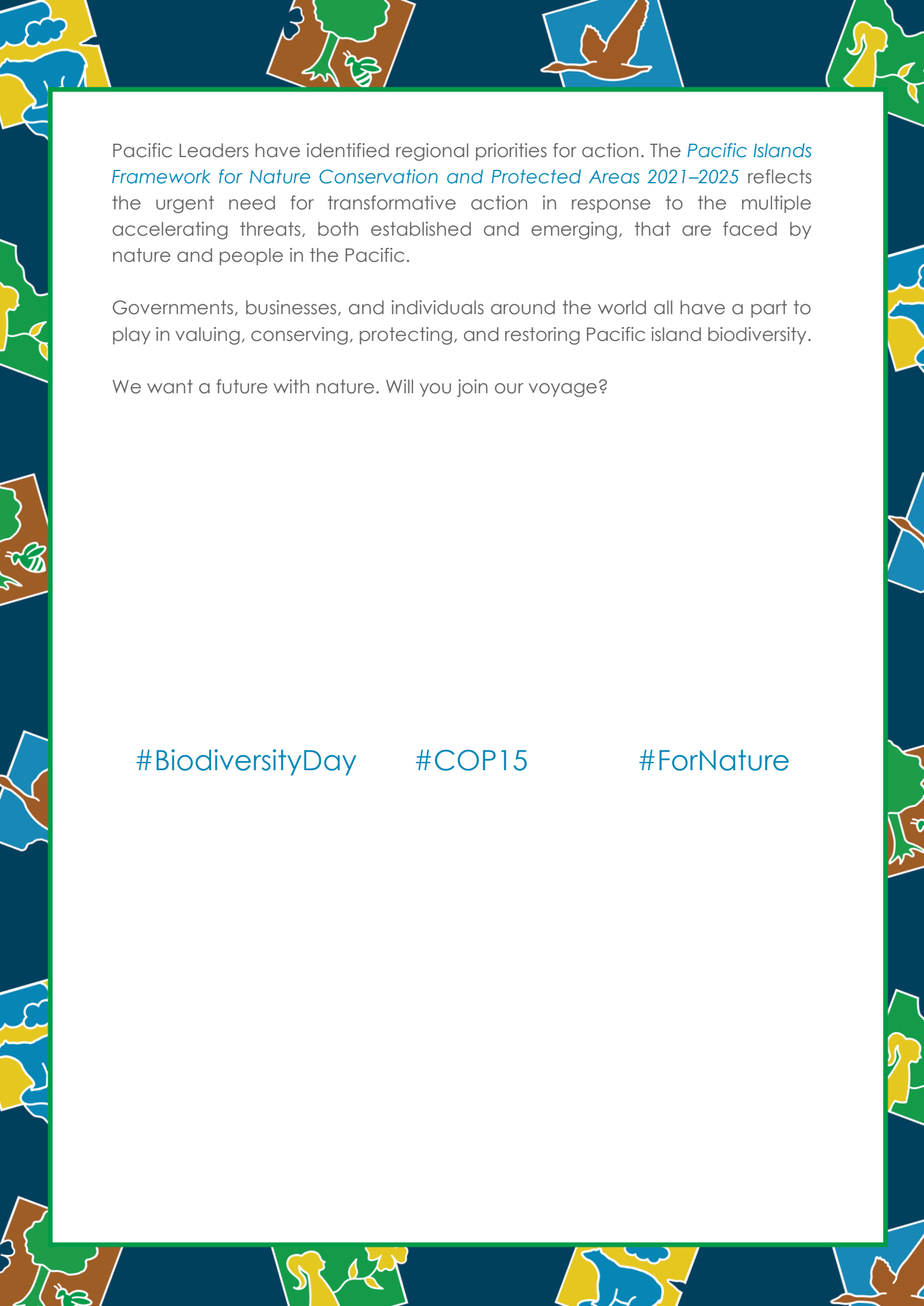
In turn, the health of Pacific island biodiversity depends on global action. Climate change and invasive species are the top two drivers of species extinctions on islands, each driven by choices beyond our shores.

A robust global biodiversity framework could generate the transformative change we need to reverse biodiversity loss and sustain island communities, if we commit to action that is swift, equitable, and aligned with the rights of our indigenous peoples.

Native wild species are central to our economies, cultures, and identity. The Pacific is home to 30,000 islands, 2,000 different languages and one voice of unity for action, the [Vemööre Declaration](#).

The Pacific is one of the world's biodiversity hotspots. There are over 2,000 single-country endemic species: 45 per cent are at risk of extinction. We face some of the highest extinction rates in the world.

We also know the power of nature's regeneration. The Pacific humpback whale, a totem species and iconic voyager, is on the path to recovery from the brink of extirpation thanks to region-wide efforts. The Pacific leads the world in the establishment of large sanctuaries for whales, sharks, and turtles, covering millions of square kilometres of ocean.

A decorative border surrounds the central text area, featuring various nature-related icons such as a tree, a bird, a bee, a person, and a landscape, all rendered in a stylized, colorful manner.

Pacific Leaders have identified regional priorities for action. The *Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas 2021–2025* reflects the urgent need for transformative action in response to the multiple accelerating threats, both established and emerging, that are faced by nature and people in the Pacific.

Governments, businesses, and individuals around the world all have a part to play in valuing, conserving, protecting, and restoring Pacific island biodiversity.

We want a future with nature. Will you join our voyage?

[#BiodiversityDay](#)

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