



Title	Safeguarding Forest Genetic Resources through Forest Restoration and Landscape restoration	
Organizer	Pacific Community (SPC) in collaboration with Deutsche Gesellschaft für internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH	
Type of event	Plenary	
Venue	Room 109	
Date/Time	Tuesday, 18 June; 15:30-17:00	
Event description		
<p>The genetic resources present in native and exotic trees represent a resource of vast economic, social and environmental importance to Pacific Islanders: everyday many hundreds of tree species are used by Pacific Islanders for meeting basic needs (timber, food, fuel, medicines), myriad cultural purposes and for improving soil fertility and environmental protection. Certain tree species which are well adapted to extreme conditions, such as Pandanus, breadfruit, coconuts and Terminalia spp. will be vital for providing resilience to Pacific Island production systems in the face of climate change and more extreme climate events, especially cyclones and storm surge. In the face of continuing deforestation and forest degradation mainly resulting from unsustainable practices, valuable forest and tree genetic resources continue to be lost with negative impacts to the livelihoods and well-being of Pacific island communities. There is an urgent need for measures to be put in place that would assist PICTs in the better conservation, management and use of their forest and tree genetic resources. An essential important component towards this goal will be the tree germplasm supply and exchange. Some PICTs have been implementing tree improvement programs over the years and are now ready to share and exchange with others their improved genetic materials for reforestation and restoration works. The event aims to share experiences on the efficient, effective and safe exchange of priority tree germplasm for reforestation and landscape restoration; foster an open discussion on current knowledge and positive experiences in- and outside the Pacific region; and stimulate learning and networking.</p>		
Time	Speaker / Panelist	Theme
15.30-15.35	Mr Jalesi Mateboto, Natural Resource Management Adviser, SPC	Opening by the event Moderator
15.35-15.45	Ms Iwona Piechowiak, Programme Leader- Sustainable Forests and Landscapes,	Introduction into the context: Forest Genetic Resources through forest restoration and landscape restoration
15.45-15.55	Associate Prof Lex Thomson, University of Sunshine Coast, Australia	Introduction into the context: Forest Genetic Resources through forest restoration and landscape restoration
15.55-16.00	Mr Samuel Pitakaka Vazu, Ministry of Forestry and Research, Solomon Islands	Presentation of experiences from the Pacific: Solomon Islands
16.00-16.05	Ms Mere Vukialau, Ministry of Forestry, Fiji	Presentation of experiences from the Pacific: Fiji
16.05-16.10	Mr Rixon Viranamangga, Department of Forestry, Vanuatu	Presentation of experiences from the Pacific: Vanuatu
16.10-16.15	Mr Rabbie Lalo, Forestry Authority, PNG	Presentation of experiences from the Pacific: Papua New Guinea
16.15-17.00	<i>Moderated plenary discussion with all presenters</i>	