



# Regional ACP/MEAs Meeting

17<sup>th</sup> Sept 2018

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# Personal Experience

- Preparations for and engagement at COP meetings and related processes
- Contribution to key COP resolutions and decisions – examples of how PICs have influenced key decisions and outcomes
- Lessons learned/recommendations



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# Experience with UNCCD

## 2007 – CRIC 5 Argentina





# Experience with UNCCD

## 2007 – CRIC 5 Argentina

- \* Pacific sub region participants
- \* SPREP attended meetings to support participation. This was invaluable for new participants or those unfamiliar with issues



## 2009 – COP 9 Argentina

- **SPC participated in COP 9 in Argentina**
  - \* was instrumental in getting the Pacific participants to fight for recognition within the Regional Implementation Annex of Asia.
- **Many meetings raising this same issue**
  - \* Seeking official guidance from OLA
  - \* Officially we cannot change the name of the Regional Annex as it is set in the Convention text.



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# Experience with UNCCD

## 2011 – COP 10 Korea

- First (and only!) Pacific Pre-COP Preparatory Meeting for UNCCD
- Pacific well represented at this COP, SPREP team including media joined delegates in Changwon and organised side events



Photo Credit: SPREP



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# Experience with UNCCD

## 2011 – COP 10 Korea



- Stronger Pacific 'voice' and active participation. It was in this meeting, at since then, that the Group moved to referring to ourselves in all statements as either the Asia Pacific Group or the Group of Asia and Pacific States.



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Photo Credit: SPREP

# Experience with UNCCD

- Common issues with other countries in Asia – speak from a combined voice of the whole Group
  - \* e.g. capacity gaps/building, need for further resources and support for reporting and implementation, mapping of land degradation etc.
- Where there is a specific issue that is particular to the Pacific, it is possible to speak formally on behalf of Pacific Island States – if this is agreed and coordinated
  - Roles within UNCCD
    - ❖ Delegate to
    - ❖ Pacific and AP, VP Bureau positions
    - ❖ Negotiator





# Lessons Learnt

- **Consistent representation**
- **Active Participation in meetings**
- **Learn about your Convention, its institutional bodies, how they work together, their individual mandates**
  - ❖ What you can and can't ask them to do
- **Learn about the issues and if/how they affect your country/sub region**
- **ENGLISH!! esp. grammar and the use of negotiation words.**



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## Recommendations

# Lessons Learnt

- **Get to know others!**
  - ❖ Country delegates especially those in your Annex
  - ❖ Secretariat Staff especially Regional
- **Experience with implementation in-country and the particular challenges or success of your country**
- **Understand that as the Country Parties, you are the decision makers of the Convention that tell the Secretariats how to operate, in which areas, and within what budget**
  - ❖ once you have all fought amongst yourselves to agree on text!



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## Recommendations

# *Meitaki Maata*

