

DEFENDING THE BLUE CONTINENT

Regional Capacity Building Workshop for Pacific Environmental Human Rights Defenders

Sofitel Fiji Resort 28 – 30 March 2023

Program Day 1: Tuesday 28 March

8:30 – 9:00

Registration

9:00 – 9:30

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Speakers:

Heike Alefsen, Regional Representative, Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) Regional Office for the Pacific

Ian Fry, Special Rapporteur on Climate Change and Human Rights

Patrick Earle, Executive Director Diplomacy Training Program

9:30 – 10:00

Goals and Objectives of the Training

Facilitator:

Anare Tuitoga, Instructional Designer and Lecturer at the University of the South Pacific

10:00 – 10:30

Coffee Break

10:30 – 12:00

Defending the Blue Continent: Voices from the Pacific

Icebreaker activity

Participants present themselves and their cases

Facilitator: Anare Tuitoga

12:00 – 13:00

Human Rights and the Environment: An Introduction

Trainer: Joshua Cooper, Director and Lecturer at Hawai'i Institute for Human Rights

13:00 – 14:30

Lunch break

14:30 – 15:30

Human Rights Defenders and Environmental Human Rights Defenders?

Trainer: Dr. Natasha Khan, Assistant Lecturer and Coordinator, Undergraduate Diploma in Leadership, Governance and Human Rights and Chair of the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network (PHRDN)

15:30 – 15:45

Coffee break

15:45 – 16:15

The Situation for Environmental Human Rights Defenders in the Pacific

Trainers:

Lia Mai Torres, Head of Secretariat, Asia Pacific Network of Environment Defenders

Dr. Georgina Lloyd, Regional Coordinator Asia and Pacific, United Nations Environment Programme

16:45 – 17:15

Presentation of Toolkit for Environmental Human Rights Defenders

Trainers: Lia Mai Torres and Georgina Lloyd

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Program Day 2: Wednesday 29 March

9:30 – 10:15

Introduction to the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council

Trainer: Surya Deva, Professor at the Macquarie Law School, Director of the Centre for Environmental Law and former member of the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights (2016-22)

10:15 – 11:00

The Communications Procedure: What are Communications and what are their purpose?

Trainer: Stefani Sensi, Human Rights Officer at the Office of the High Commissioner

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee Break

11:30 – 12:15

Examples of Communications on Environmental Human Rights Violations

Trainers: Stefano Sensi and Georgina Lloyd

12:15 – 12:45

Case Study: The Frieda River Project and it's Potential Adverse on the Human Rights of Sepik Peoples

Speaker: Emmanuel Peni, Coordinator of Project Sepik, Papua New Guinea, shares his experience of presenting his case to the Special Procedures

12:45 – 14:15

Lunch break

14:15 – 15:00

Environment-related Human Rights Harm in the Pacific Region: An Analysis of the Cases Presented by Participants

Presentation of case 1 brought forward by participant and group discussion. Together, we:

- Identify human rights issues
- Identify the mandates the communication could be sent to
- Identify alleged victims
- Identify alleged perpetrators

15:00 – 15:45

Environment-related Human Rights Harm in the Pacific Region: An Analysis of the Case 2 Presented by Participants

Presentation of case 2 brought forward by participant and group discussion.

15:45 – 16:00

Coffee break.

16:00 – 16:45

Environment-related Human Rights Harm in the Pacific Region: An Analysis of the Case 3 Presented by Participants

Presentation of case 2 brought forward by participant and group discussion Trainers: Lia Mai Torres and Georgina Lloyd

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Program Day 3: Thursday 30 March

9:00 – 9:30

Quiz on the Special Procedures

9:30 – 11:00

Practical Exercise: Drafting a Communication Submission to the Special Procedures

11:00 – 11:30

Coffee break

11:30 – 13:00

Report Back to Plenary and Open Discussion

12:45 – 14:15

Lunch break

14:15 – 15:00

Way Forward

Trainer: Surya Deva