

## OUTCOMES STATEMENT

### Inaugural Pacific Youth Forum on Sustainable Tourism

***Theme: Steering Sustainable Tourism: Promoting Pacific Youth Voices in Co-creating Resilient Destinations***

**27<sup>th</sup> September and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (Virtual)**

With the attendance of over 100 youth representatives and related stakeholders from the Pacific, the inaugural sustainable tourism youth forum facilitated robust discussions and ideas for the advancement of sustainable tourism development in the region. To enhance youth contributions in high-level dialogues on sustainable tourism for the Pacific, the forum focused on the four goals of the Pacific Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework, and to this end recommended the following:

- **Encourage** the involvement and recognition of youths in national and regional policy planning including governance structures, as well as in tourism development, particularly those from rural and island communities.
- **Increase** opportunities for building youth capacity in leadership and entrepreneurship skills, including access to green financing opportunities.
- **Call** for more forums and research to capture the challenges, needs and abilities of youth in tourism planning and development.
- **Foster** local partnerships with a strong emphasis on involving youth in the tourism, agriculture and fisheries industries and promoting farm-to-table concepts.
- **Urge** youth to strengthen their traditional knowledge and celebrate their cultural heritage as part of our tourism offering.
- **Leverage** technology to strengthen cultural heritage as part of our tourism offering.
- **Ensure** that the integration of cultural heritage within tourism is community informed.

- **Recognize** the importance of increased research in understanding community needs. This is vital for changing mindsets regarding the significance of tourism in enhancing livelihoods.
- **Promote** indigenous and community-based tourism as an approach to sustainable tourism and implement tourist activities that support daily household activities rather than disrupt them.
- **Call** for the development of credit score systems to monitor the contributions from large hotels and resorts towards their local community's wellbeing and livelihoods.
- **Advocate** for the tourism industry to respond to the climate emergency and disaster response efforts in local communities.
- **Integrate** tourist activities into recovery efforts aimed at restoring our natural resources impacted by development pressures.
- **Enhance** support for tertiary education on sustainable tourism development, with the ultimate goal of fostering a tourism industry that respects youth, local communities and natural resources of our Pacific nations, and to also broaden the youths' abilities and expertise in lead tourism policy and management roles.
- **Encourage** self-sufficiency towards the local communities by indigenizing the producers, the market and consumers, thereby increasing resilience for the industry in the face of economic and external crisis.

We encourage all youth representatives and related stakeholders from the Pacific of the Inaugural Pacific Youth Forum on Sustainable Tourism to disseminate and advocate the important messages outlined in this Outcomes Statement, recognizing its links to SPTO's Pacific Sustainable Tourism Policy Framework (PSTPF) which acknowledges the importance of promoting the involvement of youth and their representatives in the development of tourism policies and destination development.