



International Union for Conservation of Nature – Statement to MSG Leaders

June 21, 2013

Monsieur Victor Tutugoro: Chairman of the MSG and Vice-President of the FLNKS

Honorable Prime Ministers, Foreign Ministers, Grand Chief Sir Michael Somare, Excellencies
Observers, Special Guests Ladies and Gentlemen

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) is honored to be represented here this morning. We recognize the special role that the countries of Melanesia have in the Pacific Island region and the challenges of managing your natural resources and incredible biodiversity for the long term benefit of your people.

I would like to begin by congratulating the new Chair of the MSG and the FLNKS in the special role you have in steering the MSG ship over the next 2 years as well as flying the flag for the Kanak people. I appreciate your hospitality on this trip and look forward to a strong and continuing partnership.

I would also like to acknowledge to leadership of Republic of Fiji over the past two years and the successful initiatives that have engraved the MSG as a significant and regional and global body. Of the many achievements, I make special mention of the Environment and Climate Change Ministers meeting as a new platform that has raised the bar on issues paramount to the sustainability of our people and our planet.

Mr. Chairman, IUCN is keen to continue our partnership and cooperation with the MSG Secretariat and the MSG countries for the long term. WE recognize the importance of the Environment and Climate Change declaration and the recommendations made by the Eminent persons group. IUCN wishes to work with you in implementing a roadmap for Green / Blue growth and sustainable development that enables economic growth but conserves our environment, manages our natural resources and nurtures our people.

In conclusion Mr. Chairman:

We look forward to a strengthened partnership between IUCN and MSG Secretariat and to signing the upcoming MOU that will facilitate cooperation for the long term.