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2019 Pacific Environmental Security Forum (PESF)

21-24 May 2019

Purpose: To advance environmental security in the Indo-Pacific region, while sharing environmental best practices and lessons learned, shaping bilateral and multilateral cooperation, identifying future environmental security projects, and transforming the PESF to a more formal regional partnership.

Highlights

- The PESF was completed, with over 160 participants from over 30 countries and organizations in attendance.
- The Pacific Environmental Security Partnership (PESP) was formally introduced to environmental security practitioners.
- The four draft PESP work groups (Education, Mitigation, Networking and Policy) provided a framework for PESF execution.
- A list of over 35 environmental security project was formulated and will be considered for support under the new PESP construct.
- The draft PESP Terms of Reference was reviewed for partner feedback.
- A weighted environmental security multi-criteria analysis was performed by partners, and the results were displayed in a Geographic Information System (GIS).
- The 2020 Southeast Asia Regional Environmental Security Forum will be hosted by the Philippines.



Partners from across the Indo-Pacific focus during a PESF session



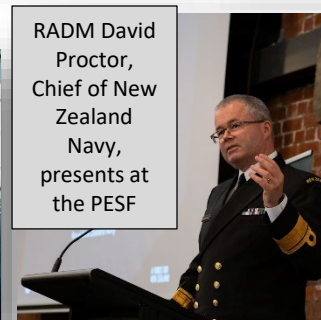
Partners from Nepal and Bangladesh engage during a break



H.E. Ron Mark, New Zealand Minister of Defence, delivers his opening statement



PESF partners listen to an environmental security presentation



RADM David Proctor, Chief of New Zealand Navy, presents at the PESF



COL Litea Seruiratu (Fiji) asks a question during a panel session



PESF group photo



Participants listen to a PESP work group speaker session

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2019 Pacific Environmental Security Forum (PESF)

Day 1 - 21 May 2019



Purpose: To showcase climate security challenges and considerations in the Indo-Pacific, and discuss potential regional solutions. To introduce the Pacific Environmental Security Partnership (PESP) working group concept, and share examples of planned or completed Education, Mitigation, Networking and Policy projects.

Highlights

- Over 130 participants from 30+ countries and organizations were in attendance for PESF Day 1.
- The PESF was opened by the U.S. Ambassador, Scott J. Brown, and the New Zealand Minister of Defence, Ron Mark.
- New Zealand moderated the *Climate Security Challenges in the Pacific* theme, with presentations delivered on climate change, climate migration, and disaster response/mitigation.
- Mr. Christopher Sholes, USINDOPACOM J445, introduced the new regional Pacific Environmental Security Partnership (PESP) concept.
- Subject matter experts from across the Indo-Pacific shared best practices and lessons-learned on environmental security topics related to Education, Mitigation, Networking and Policy.
- New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade hosted an evening reception led by the Deputy Prime Minister, Winston Peters.



Honorable Ron Mark (NZ Minister of Defence) discusses NZ's climate policy (top left). Mr. Zuhair (Maldives) delivered a subject matter expert presentation during the PESP work group series (top right). A panel session was held to answer climate change questions from participants (bottom right). PESF participants listen to presentations (bottom right).



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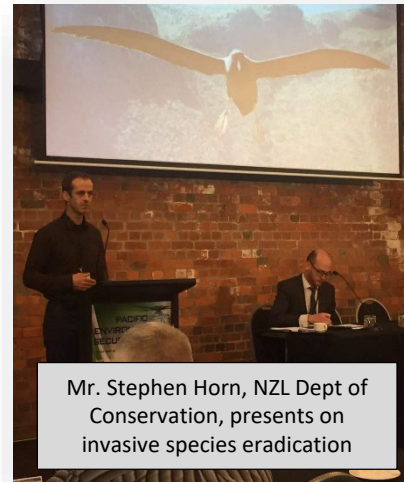
2019 Pacific Environmental Security Forum (PESF)

Day 2 - 22 May 2019

Purpose: To increase awareness of ongoing resource sustainability and environmental security best practices being executed in the Indo-Pacific. To highlight environmental security considerations within New Zealand, including the incorporation of historical perspectives.

Highlights

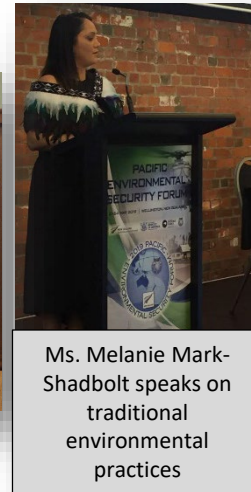
- New Zealand's National Maritime Coordination Centre led the *Environmental Security and Resource Sustainability* theme.
- The morning session featured multiple speakers focusing upon biosecurity and resource sustainability.
- New Zealand's Chief of Navy presented on climate change and maritime security.
- Biosecurity intelligence and eradication of invasive species were prominent topics.
- A robust panel session was held on the topics of the day, and participants used an interactive web-based tool to engage with the speakers.
- New Zealand's Ministry of Environment shared environmental security best practices from Māori tradition.
- All participants toured Te Papa, New Zealand's national museum, to learn more about the host country's native environment and military.



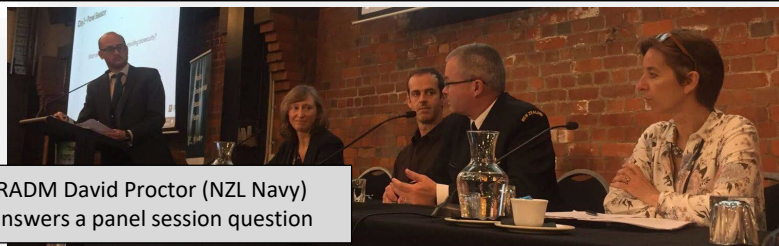
Mr. Stephen Horn, NZL Dept of Conservation, presents on invasive species eradication



H.E. Winston Peters, Deputy Prime Minister, speaks at the PESF



Ms. Melanie Mark-Shadbolt speaks on traditional environmental practices



RADM David Proctor (NZL Navy) answers a panel session question



Group photo

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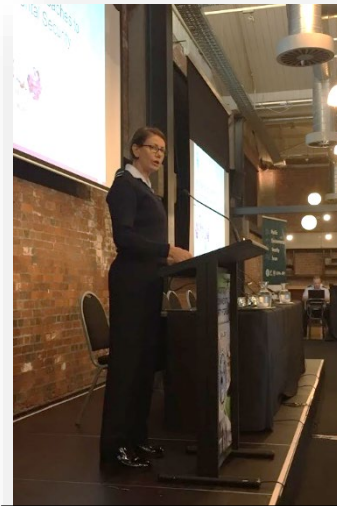
2019 Pacific Environmental Security Forum (PESF)

Day 3 - 23 May 2019

Purpose: To feature ongoing multilateral approaches to environmental security in the Indo-Pacific region; To produce an environmental security index for potential incorporation into the Pacific Environmental Security Partnership (PESP) Terms of Reference, which includes multiple social, economic, military, environmental and political factors.

Highlights

- Australia's Director General of Support, Air Commodore Kirrily Dearing, led the *Multilateral Approaches to Environmental Security* theme.
- Multilateral perspectives were delivered to the plenary by the Pacific Islands Forum (Fiji), Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (India), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (Samoa), and the United Nations Environment Programme (Thailand).
- An Environmental Security Index exercise was conducted with all participants.
- The exercise obtained responses by country, weighted by region, that showcase environmental security priorities and climate change effects.
- Maps will be produced for each region showing the results of the Environmental Security Index exercise.



AIRC DRE Dearing (Australia) moderates the morning session



Mr Koronawa presents the PIFS perspective on environmental security



Dr Cornforth (SPREP) explains waste management issues in the South Pacific



The Oceania region prioritizes climate change effects in the afternoon exercise

Dr Lisa Guppy explains UNEP and the benefits of joining the PESP



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2019 Pacific Environmental Security Forum (PESF)

Day 4 - 24 May 2019

Purpose: To announce the new Pacific Environmental Security Partnership (PESP), and explain its fundamental construct. To allow participants to provide feedback on the PESP Terms of Reference, submit environmental security project ideas, and deliver after-action review comments on the 2019 PESF.

Highlights

- The *Environmental Security Transformation* was led by USINDOPACOM J9's Dr. John Wood.
- USINDOPACOM and the Australia Defence Force explained the draft PESP Terms of Reference.
- In ten groups, participants provided feedback on the draft PESP Terms of Reference.
- Countries and organizations submitted future environmental security project ideas for consideration.
- Participants submitted 2019 PESF after-action review comments.
- The Philippines presented their 2020 PESF hosting proposal.
- The PESF closing ceremony was led by RADM John J. Adametz (NAVFACPAC) and Ms. Kay Harrison (New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade).



Dr. Wood (USA) explains the *Environmental Security Transformation* Theme



CD/CDR Valdez (PHL) proposes the 2020 PESF theme



COL Goodyer (AUS) explains the draft PESP structure



H.E. Kay Harrison (NZL) closes the PESF



Participants review and edit the PESP terms of reference and develop projects