

Olivier Langrand, Conservation International Vice-President

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I will be very brief but first let me express, on behalf of all the NGOs, the appreciation for all the work done with the island states. It has been a real pleasure and I think together we have achieved great results.

One of the role of the NGOs is to work with the local governments to deliver conservation on the ground, but it is also to catalyze funding from different sources. I would like to announce that Conservation International has been successful in catalyzing funding from the Walton Family Foundation for two important seascapes. The first one is the Eastern Tropical Pacific Seascape, which includes Costa Rica, Panama and Ecuador and for which we were able to catalyze USD 9 million for the next two years. The second seascape is the Birdheads Seascape on the island of Papua New Guinea, which has been featured in a number of TV programs recently because of the amazing biodiversity discovered there recently. We were able to catalyze USD 17 million over the next two years for conservation on the ground.

Finally, six years ago CI started with some very important partners an initiative called the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) dedicated to reinforce the capacity of the civil society to undertake conservation within the 34 biodiversity hotspots recognized worldwide. These partners are the World Bank, the GEF, the MacArthur Foundation, the Government of Japan, the Government of France and Conservation International. I'm very pleased to announce that in the next five years USD 6 Million will be invested in the Micronesia-Polynesia region.

Thank you very much.