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The Nature Conservancy
(transcribed from video footage)

My name is Nigel Purvis, I'm here representing The Nature Conservancy, an international conservation organisation dedicated to preserving biodiversity around the world. This is an absolute privilege for me to be here with you this evening, because I have found the commitments that governments are making absolutely inspirational, and it is a tremendous opportunity to, on behalf of the Conservancy, to put our efforts in support of these governments before you.

The Micronesia challenge, which we have worked with the governments in that region on for some time, is a tremendous challenge in many senses of the word. It will be a significant challenge for those governments to make that historic commitment; 30% of marine, 20% of terrestrial conservation – those are not small figures and meeting that challenge will not be easy. So I commend them for making that effort and I have already seen significant political will towards implementation. But the Micronesia Challenge is also a challenge to the rest of us. It is a challenge to lend a helping hand; to assist in providing both support and technical assistance to make the Micronesia Challenge a reality.

And therefore, we would like to, The Nature Conservancy, TNC would like to issue its own challenge, an NGO challenge, to all of you who are represented here. The Nature Conservancy pledges 3 million dollars towards sustainable financing of the Micronesia Challenge. We would very much like to see that pledge placed in the context of a total 18 million dollars raised for the governments that are participating in the Micronesia Challenge, to be applied towards sustainable financing; not sinking funds that will be spent today and will be gone tomorrow, but mechanisms, national trust funds and other innovative mechanisms, that will continue to generate the resources necessary to make these National Protected Area Networks a reality for future generations. So we issue this challenge in the hope that governments here and international agencies will join us in raising the complete 18 million dollars.

We also see that Micronesian countries, the region, is not the only region that is showing leadership. We have been working with a government in Grenada for a number of years and its wonderful to see their announcement today. We applaud the other announcements that are coming forward. This is what the protected areas plan of action should be – the Programme of Work should be this collaborative effort between political commitments on the one hand by governments and support from all of their partners. We very much hope that the pledges that have been made today, both political and financial, will stimulate an even greater effort at the next Conference Of Parties, with more challenges by many more governments.