



## THE OCEAN DECLARATION OF MAUPITI

The representatives of Pacific Countries and Territories, **Aotearoa-New Zealand, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, French Polynesia, Hawaii, Kiribati, Niue, New Caledonia, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Rapa Nui, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga**, who met in Maupiti, of Society Islands, French Polynesia, during the UNESCO World Heritage Workshop of the Pacific Islands held from 1<sup>st</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> November 2009:

**THANK** the local community of PUATIRIOURAIVAIAHU-RAIPUAEA, the people and the municipality of Maupiti for their generosity and friendship,

**WE:**

**REAFFIRM** that, for many Pacific communities:

- There are sacred and intrinsic links with land, sky and ocean. This constitutes for many a fundamental and spiritual basis of existence.
- The Ocean is a holistic reality of the life cycles of the earth.
- The ocean is their identity, way of living, values, knowledge and practices that have sustained them for millennia.

**ACKNOWLEDGE** that the Ocean represents for many island communities the beginning and the end of their heritage, respected, shaped and passed through successive generations by their ancestors.

**OBSERVE** that the Ocean is a sacred, essential entity for many island communities, which is subject to a climate crisis of human origin.

**OBSERVE** that the loss of values associated with the ocean and its resources threatens the collective, physical, moral, spiritual well being, integrity and survival of many islands communities.

**RECOGNIZE** the need to safeguard knowledge, spirituality, traditional practices and their inter-relationships with land, sky and ocean.

- **URGENTLY CALL** to action all nations and the peoples of the World to join and protect, manage, maintain and sustain the cultural and natural integrity of the ocean for our ancestors and future generations.

5<sup>th</sup> November 2009

Ia Ora Na