



OCEANIA PLANETARY HEALTH FORUM

SHANGRI-LA YANUCA ISLAND, FIJI
FEBRUARY 26 - 28 2025



Bridging Indigenous Knowledge, Culture and Science for Regional Planetary Health

Delegates of the 2025 Oceania Planetary Health Forum gathered on Yanuca Island, Fiji, recognizing the vital importance of integrated approaches to planetary health that prioritize Indigenous knowledge systems, youth leadership, and the sustainable stewardship of our shared environment. The Forum reaffirmed its commitment to the foundational principles of the Healthy Islands Vision and the Blue Pacific narrative, emphasizing their critical roles in promoting resilience, equity, and sustainability throughout the Oceania region.

Recognizing Oceania's unique ecosystems, rich cultural heritage, and the profound interconnectedness of human, animal, and environmental health, delegates acknowledged the escalating impacts of climate change, biodiversity loss, urbanization, and socio-economic inequities. With a collective sense of urgency, delegates highlighted the imperative of transformative action that ensures intergenerational and interspecies justice, guided by the wisdom of Indigenous peoples and amplified by the energy and innovation of the youth.

Delegates affirmed that research and practice in planetary health must be undertaken in accordance with the principle that the conception, establishment, and operations of activities are guided by protocols of the Indigenous cultures of the places where these activities are based.

Recognizing the multi-scale nature of planetary health- from local communities and watersheds to provincial, national, regional, and global levels - the Forum emphasized that planetary health researchers and practitioners in Oceania must clearly identify and act at levels best suited to their strengths, acknowledging that each scale requires distinct methods, tools, and actions. Delegates further recognized the importance of understanding cross-scale interactions and influences to ensure holistic and effective planetary health outcomes.

With these understandings, delegates of the 2025 Oceania Planetary Health Forum collectively call on international, intergovernmental, and national organizations to:

- **Recollect** and reaffirm priority actions from the 2018 Oceania Planetary Health Forum Call to Action regarding: strengthening regional networks and dialogue platforms; resourcing cross-sectoral joint decision-making for preventative action; providing guidance on monitoring approaches to realize measurement of the Healthy Islands Vision; recognizing the foundational roles of Indigenous leadership and local knowledge; embracing long-term research and monitoring; and broadly communicating models of planetary health research and practice from Oceania within the region and to the rest of the world.
 - **Centre** the ancient wisdom of Indigenous peoples in planetary health research and practice, including through actions that: preserve languages which contain entire knowledge systems guiding cultural practice that underpins health and community vitality; ensure Bridging of Indigenous Knowledge Systems and modern Science so that planetary health actions are guided by both the best science and deep respect for local customs and wisdom.
 - **Address** power imbalances, with respect to climate change impact, land/water ownership, regenerative and nature-based solutions – building upon the principle of ‘nothing about us without us’
 - **Transform** systems, structures and policies to realise Indigenous and local self-determination and address power imbalances, with respect to climate migration, ethics review, land/water ownership, regenerative and nature-based solutions, and building upon a principle of ‘nothing about us without us’.
 - **Engage** youth in the development of priorities for planetary health research and practice. Partner with youth groups in the next Oceania Planetary Health Forum scheduled for 2027
- to ensure that the youth voice* is expressed in decision-making around emphasis and outcomes.
- **Nurture** a new generation of planetary health scholars, practitioners and actors by strengthening networks for knowledge sharing and capacity building. Strengthen and prioritise the work of individuals and organizations who can act as boundary spanners to convene and connect different sectors and actors, and to foster co-design for systems approaches to integrative planetary health action.
 - **Design** and implement integrative disease prevention approaches that make use of nature-based solutions and health promotion strategies, monitoring their implementation and measuring their impact to guide adaptive intervention adjustment.
 - **Develop** and adopt data collection mechanisms to inform management and decision-making tools that together will reflect an integrative approach across health and environment. Ensure measures, and/or indicator suites, reflect changes in condition; the introduction of new pressures (whether anthropogenic or otherwise); the introduction of policy-based or economic responses; the need to think systemically, across scales of causation and effect; and the need to consider the values and assumption that under-lie planetary health research and practice.
 - **Mobilize** finance for planetary health research and action, including by urging the international community to increase and activate financing to address the urgent impacts of climate change on planetary health; and developing local, innovative mechanisms to enable sustained planetary health action across the spatial and temporal scales required to meaningfully deliver positive health outcomes.
 - **Connect** and amplify examples of systems, processes and organisations that are implementing Call to Action at different levels. At the supra-regional level, profile ways that the WHO Asia-Pacific Centre for Environment and Health, can connect ecosystems, equity and indigenous knowledges as cross-cutting priorities for its interventions, including holistic, Indigenous and diverse system expertise in the Centre's processes. Operationalize integrative initiatives such as “Tadra Vanua”, or the Planetary Health Research Centre as exemplars that draw from the strength of existing innovative programs (e.g. WISH and RISE) and progress toward sustained, holistic, place-based, relational planetary health research and practice, relevant to Fiji and across Oceania.

Delegates specifically urge those responsible for establishing and operating initiatives such as “Tadra Vanua” to uphold and implement this Call to Action through rigorous adherence to Indigenous protocols, culturally grounded methodologies, and adaptive, cross-scale planetary health practice.

Youth Statement

We, the young people (both from the region and allies), reflect on the “Call to Action: Policy Dialogue on Planetary Health in the Oceania Region” from 2018. Young people are mentioned under point 17:

“The forum was equally aware of the need to create opportunities to facilitate (and share) innovative new and existing solutions, to motivate change and to involve young people, as well as more senior members of societies. Moreover, the forum acknowledged the utmost importance of early life, not only for the foundations of future health, but for instilling the pro-environmental ideologies we depend on for our future.”

With this Youth Statement, we call for strengthening meaningful and ongoing adolescent and youth engagement in the Forum processes. We extend support to the 2025 Call to Action and call for expanding the emphasis on the unique lived experiences and expertise of young people.

Throughout this forum, it has become clear that meaningful youth engagement requires four key components: **Support, Connection, Training, and Opportunities**. To ensure this is not just a call to action but an actual plan for implementation, we propose concrete steps to foster intergenerational and intersectoral collaboration. We must include diverse youth, including students, researchers, artists, marketing experts, business professionals, and policymakers.

We, the OPHF 2025 Youth Attendees, appreciate the opportunity to provide our insights and recommendations to enhance and amplify OPHF's engagement with youth at their Forums and activities. We look forward to seeing the actions above implemented and are open to ongoing conversations and collaborations with the organizing team and larger Planetary Health community.

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