



Pacific  
Community  
Communauté  
du Pacifique

The official icon of the 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Pacific Community and 51<sup>st</sup> Meeting of the CRGA celebrates Vanuatu's role as the Chair of the Conference and acknowledges the Pacific Community's commitment to its theme of Blue Pacific Prosperity and Wellbeing for its members. The icon starts as a two-spiralled pig's tusk. It features the four official colours of Vanuatu's flag: Green to capture the islands of Vanuatu and richness of the land, red to symbolise peace and respect, black to represent the ni-Vanuatu people and finally, yellow to symbolise the peace and light of Christianity throughout the islands. Moving into the second spiral, the icon segues into the blue and teal of the Pacific Ocean, linking directly to the Twelfth Conference theme, Blue Pacific Prosperity and Wellbeing, as well as the official colours of the Pacific Community's logo.

Pigs are highly valued in Pacific cultures. In Vanuatu, the pig tusk features prominently on the country's flag and as a backdrop to the Melanesian warrior or traditional chief on its official coat of arms.

Pigs play an important religious and ceremonial role, revered by ni-Vanuatu as symbols of power and prestige in this life and beyond. Today, as part of the kastom or traditional governance system, sacrificial pig-killing ceremonies are still used by Chiefs as a traditional governance tool to mark important occasions and to emphasise the restorative nature of their traditional practices, for example in reconciliation ceremonies.

Boars are particularly valued for the length of their tusks. To ensure that these grow unimpeded, the opposing upper canines are removed to allow the tusk to spiral back around towards the jaw. In some legendary cases, tusks have been formed of two, or even three, complete spirals – each circle requiring 6-7 years' growth.

Pig tusks across the Pacific serve as objects to show respect as well as principal objects of wealth and prestige across the Pacific; and Pig Tusks are still accumulated, loaned and traded in many SPC countries and territories.



Vanuatu

