



IUCN in Oceania

2009



IUCN, the International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. It supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world and brings governments, non-government organizations, United Nations agencies, companies and local communities together to develop and implement policy, laws and best practice.

IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network – a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and NGO member organizations, and 10,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries.

IUCN's work is supported by more than 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. The Union's headquarters are located in Gland, near Geneva, Switzerland. Its Oceania Regional Office, established in 2007, is based in Suva, Fiji Islands.

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From the Regional Director



While we would like to have offered just a 2009 annual report, we are in a position to provide an update to May 2010 - I think relevant and timely information is in everyone's interest.

Banking on biodiversity – recognizing that biodiversity and related ecosystems provide the natural infrastructure for life – has become the underlying theme of the IUCN Oceania Regional Programme. Nature's solutions can contribute to mitigation and adaptation to climate change's worst impacts. In the Pacific, investing in nature and our natural infrastructure may provide the best "value for money" for our nature dependent economies. Ultimately climate change provides the opportunity to develop economic resilience by placing the proper value on ecosystem services including those provided by a healthy ocean. Thus, Pacific Island States with their massive ocean economic zones would be able to develop capacity and partnerships to manage these areas.

2009 was our third full year since being established. In that time we have found that despite what seemed like a slow start with two people on board, we are now seeing traction in all our priority programme areas and initiatives. In addition, we are adding value to the conservation and sustainable development agenda in the region, particularly in the Pacific Islands. We are proud of the strong relationships we have developed with regional organizations including the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), University of the South Pacific (USP), the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC) and international, as well as national NGOs. We are also working in at least eight Pacific countries developing partnerships with governments and key stakeholders.

Working with our Members in the region and bringing new members on board has been a major priority and the regional office is now in a position to be able to pro-actively engage with Members in developing activities that align with the regional and global IUCN programmes. In the Pacific, we welcomed Fiji, Nauru and Solomon Islands as our first Pacific Island state members and there is growing membership from national NGOs. We are also working closely with both our Australia and New Zealand membership committees and hope 2010 will lead to stronger engagement with our ANZ members. Our challenge is to continue to grow membership by adding value to our Members and building consensus and momentum on conservation issues.

This report provides details on our programme areas. However, it is worth recognising our progress in establishing IUCN as a key partner in the various regional networks including energy, water, fisheries and species. We are finding our role in convening both government and civil society sectors is appreciated by the established players in the region. This has been reinforced by our facilitation of the Roundtable for Nature Conservation which has been bringing key regional organizations and stakeholders together at a national level to develop a more effective approach to delivery of the various National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and the regional Action Strategy for Nature Conservation.

2010 is the International Year of Biodiversity and we will continue to emphasize the “Invest in Nature” theme. It is important that with the new funding committed to climate change we align our activities with governments in the region and that they (governments) see the need for investing in nature’s infrastructure, ensuring that critical eco-systems are intact and continue to serve our people with food, clean air and water and mitigate and protect us from the impacts of climate change. Biodiversity is critical to healthy ecosystems. Ecosystems sustain life.

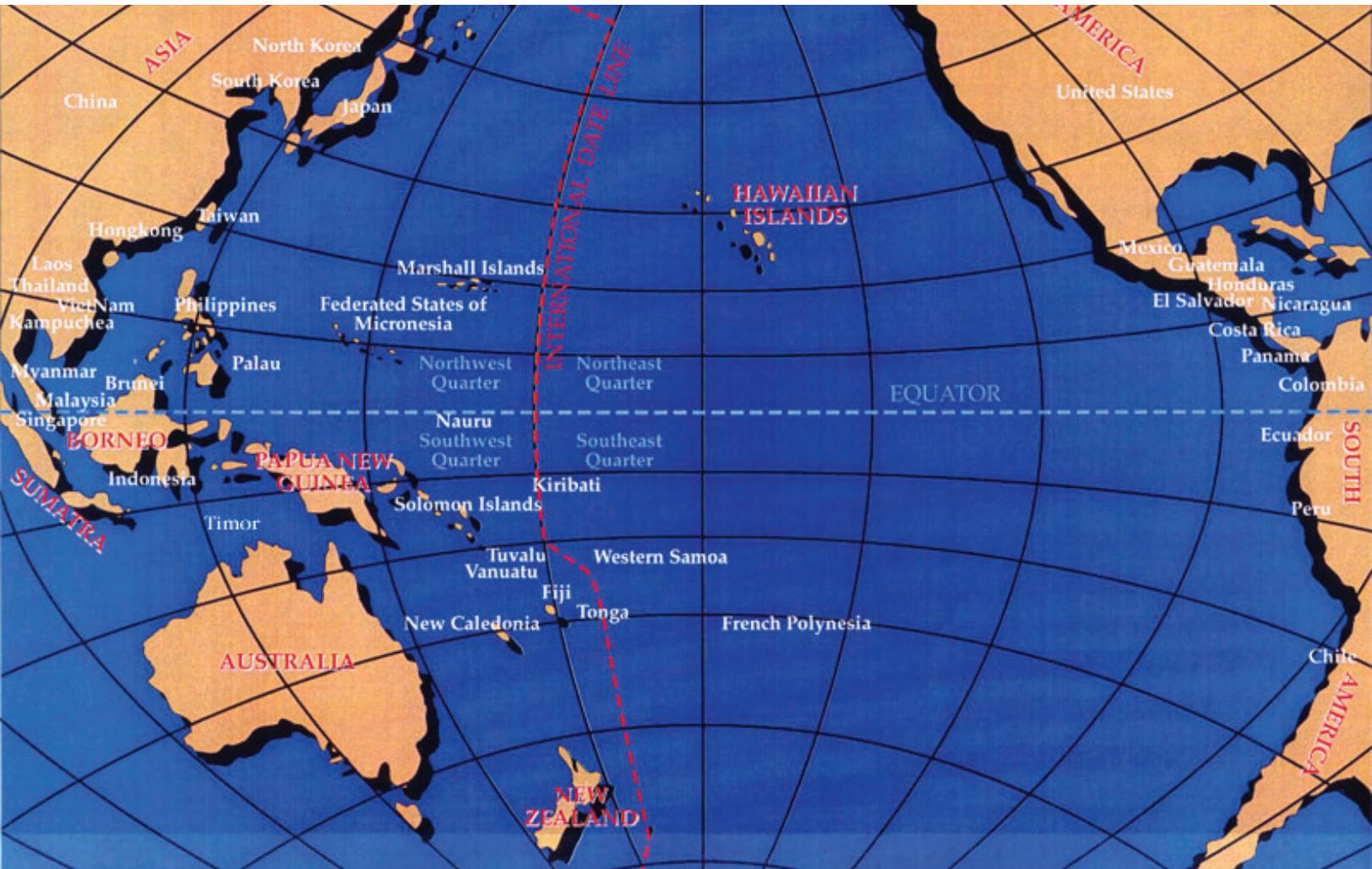
Finally, a special thank you to the IUCN Oceania Regional Office team for helping to shape and deliver our vision. Also our global leadership – the Director General and Deputy Director General and the HQ team for your support. Our appreciation to key partners in the region: CROP agencies, NGOs, Member organizations – you know who you are. Our donors and strategic partners, the governments of Italy, Austria, the Netherlands, USA, France, Germany and others, are recognised for their valuable contribution to building a sustainable and biodiversity-rich Oceania region.

Vinaka and 'ofa atu.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Taholo Kami', written over a dotted line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Taholo Kami
IUCN Oceania Regional Director

IUCN in Oceania - an overview



The total population for Pacific Island Countries and Rim Countries and Territories is approximately 2.9 billion ©MIKROGRAPHIX

Oceania is geographically one of IUCN's largest regional programmes, covering much of the central and south west Pacific Ocean as well as Australia and New Zealand. The Pacific Islands cover almost 15% of the world's ocean surface. The area is characterized by a high degree of ecosystem and species diversity, as well as a high level of endemism (often over 90% for particular groups) on many of the Pacific Islands. Increasing awareness about the importance of biodiversity and the threats to these species is critically important to the survival of all species on Earth. Thus, IUCN is working with like-minded organizations to contribute to biodiversity conservation in the Pacific context. The concept of "Investing in Nature" is central to this approach, given that often the day-to-day goods and services provided by nature are taken for granted. For Oceania, it is vital that additional efforts and investments in natural resources promote sustainable long-term use, management and conservation of our biodiversity resources.

The Oceania Regional Office has grown from 2 staff members in 2007 to almost 20 staff members in early 2010. IUCN Oceania is implementing a range of conservation initiatives, each of which seeks to meet both the needs of governments, local communities and members to strengthen the management of natural resources.

The Oceania membership of IUCN is growing rapidly. Today, IUCN Oceania has 44 active Members from 7 of the 24 states and territories in the region, representing about 4% of the global IUCN membership. State Members from Oceania include Australia, Fiji, Nauru, New Zealand and Solomon Islands. Overseas territories also part of the region are France, United Kingdom and United States of America. Since January 2009 the region has welcomed 3 new state Members, a government agency and one NGO. This growth reflects the rising importance of the presence of the IUCN Oceania Regional Office.

Out of the 10,000 members of IUCN's six specialized commissions, approximately 885 of these experts are based in Oceania. This represents almost 10% of global commission membership, impressive for a large, but least populated region, demonstrating the wealth of experience the region can contribute to global and regional conservation issues. These include members from all 6 Commissions: Commission on Education and Communication (CEC), the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL), the Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), the Species Survival Commission (SSC) and the World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA).

The Oceania Regional Programme operates in a number of thematic programme areas including Energy, Environmental Economics, Environmental Law, Marine and Coastal, Species Conservation and Water and Wetlands. An Invasive Species hub has been established with the Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) based at the University of Auckland.

In addition to the technical programmes, the Regional Office has committed to a number of broader regional initiatives. These seek to mobilise resources to address critical Pacific regional issues. Through these initiatives, partnerships are developed within existing regional frameworks or if required, new and innovative partnerships are developed to address specific needs. Some examples of our regional initiatives include the Water and Nature Initiative, the Pacific Mangroves Initiative, the Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge, the Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance and the Pacific Roundtable for Nature Conservation. A number of these initiatives are highlighted in the descriptions of the IUCN thematic program areas. However, special cross-cutting initiatives include:

The Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge

The Pacific Ocean is the world's largest natural resource, supporting the enormous biological diversity and ecosystems that directly sustain nearly 3 billion people living in 56 Pacific Island and rim countries and territories. In 2009, a Pacific Ocean Scientific Consensus Statement highlighted the serious threat the Pacific Ocean is facing. IUCN is working with partners to call for commitments to halt the decline in quality of the Pacific Ocean by the year 2020. The Challenge seeks a unified "Pacific voice" to build on the vision of a healthy and bountiful Pacific Ocean that sustains the livelihoods and cultures of Pacific peoples and contributes significantly to the health and economic vitality of the world.

Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

The Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation is a growing coalition of conservation organizations and donor agencies in the Pacific Islands region. Formed in 1997 at the request of Pacific Island countries and territories, it acts as a forum to enhance collaboration and coordination to increase effective conservation action for nature conservation in the Pacific. In particular it is the coordination mechanism for the implementation of the Action Strategy for Nature Conservation in the Pacific Island Region 2008-2012. Now with 14 institutional members, the Chair and Secretariat of the Roundtable currently sits with the IUCN Oceania Regional Office.

Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance

The Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance (PCEG) has been established by IUCN to act as a regional virtual centre of excellence in core disciplinary elements of governance, environmental law, economics and policy, as well as to promote leadership and learning across all levels of society. PCEG is focused on IUCN's Programme strengths in Environmental Law and Environmental Economics and Environmental Policy/ Governance. PCEG's mission is to work with countries and partner organizations to strengthen the capacity of individuals and institutions at all levels to make informed decisions about the use and management of natural resources and to build human and financial capital for increased biodiversity conservation, improved livelihoods and increased resilience to external shocks.

Conserving the diversity of life



Flatback turtle (*Natator depressus*) hatchlings, endemic to the continental shelf of Australia, are often found wandering in the sand dunes making them easy pickings for land predators and sea birds. ©Hannah Seaward/Marine Photobank

Biodiversity is the foundation of life on Earth. It is crucial for the functioning of ecosystems that provide us with products and services without which we could not live. Oxygen, food, fresh water, fertile soil, medicines, shelter, protection from storms and floods, stable climate and recreation - all have their source in nature and healthy ecosystems. But biodiversity gives us much more than this. In the Pacific, people depend upon biodiversity for their security and health; it provides a foundation for our traditions and social relations and gives us freedom and choice.

The biodiversity of islands in Oceania is especially fragile. The isolation for millions of years has enriched the islands with unique plant and animal assemblages that require special attention. More focus needs to be placed on the terrestrial ecosystems that house significant levels of endemic species – species that are found on these islands and nowhere else. Climate change is recognised as one of the major threats to island biodiversity.

Conserving biodiversity remains the underlying theme for the other four programmes of work for IUCN, namely tackling: climate change adaptation, promoting sustainable energy, managing nature for human well-being, and greening the world economy.

Regional Red List for the Pacific islands

In 2009, a Pacific Islands Red List was collated using existing data from the 2008 IUCN Red List of Threatened Species database. This Pacific Islands Red List provides a gap analysis of where efforts need to be focused (geographically and taxonomically) in the region.

A process to develop a comprehensive Red List for the Pacific islands has been initiated in 2010. This new initiative aims to increase our knowledge of the status of species in the region and develop a more complete list of threatened and endangered species for the Pacific Islands based on regional knowledge. This will empower decision-makers to take action to guide conservation decision-making, influence governance mechanisms, and promote the integration of biodiversity conservation and sustainable development.

Assisting in development of local capacity for environmental law in Fiji

To build environmental governance in Fiji, IUCN has continued to support building the capacity of the Fiji Environmental Law Association (FELA). This partnership has resulted in IUCN hosting FELA for the next 2 years and assisting FELA secure funding from the Packard Foundation. A series of workshops informed local communities on their role in the environment-related decision making process. It is anticipated that this model will be duplicated in other countries in the region, including Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands.

CITES Capacity building in Fiji

The lack of technical expertise and human resources are limiting progress in CITES implementation for many Pacific Island countries. In Fiji, IUCN regularly provides advice and technical support to the Department of Environment, Fiji's focal agency for IUCN. A manual featuring species identification guides, relevant legislation and examples relating to real-life scenarios was developed as a resource for Fiji's CITES Authorities and Border Officials. A two-day workshop in 2009 guided officers from the Departments of Forestry, Fisheries, Environment, Customs, Quarantine and the Fiji Police Force on the use of the manual. The workshop also looked at practical means to identify issues currently hindering border enforcement, and approaches to enhancing CITES-related border control processes. It is anticipated that this will strengthen CITES implementation in the region and serve as a model for other Pacific Island countries.

Pacific partnerships for invasive species

The island ecosystems of the Pacific Ocean are especially vulnerable to the impacts caused by the introduction of invasive alien species. The threats posed by invasive species are another critical environmental issue that IUCN is helping to address in the region. IUCN is a member of the Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP), a regional coordination platform for agencies working on invasive species in more than one country of the Pacific. PIP is also the Invasive Species Working Group of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation.

The Oceania Regional Office through the IUCN Species Survival Commission's Invasive Species Specialist Group's (ISSG) Regional Office for the Pacific, based at the University of Auckland in New Zealand, is developing a partnership approach to address Pacific invasive issues. The ISSG Regional Office for the Pacific is acting as IUCN Oceania's technical focal point for invasive species and represents IUCN Oceania at relevant Pacific invasive species forums.

Changing the climate forecast



Healthy natural systems are critical for absorbing and storing carbon and helping people to adapt to climate change. Better managing forests, peatlands or mangroves can store substantial amounts of carbon. © Helen Pippard

The value and importance of biodiversity in global ecosystems must be recognised for its critical role in addressing the issue of climate change. Human-induced climate change is driven primarily by the production of greenhouse gases. Reducing, and ultimately halting, the accumulation of atmospheric greenhouse gases will require reducing emissions and enhancing the storage of these gases in soils, vegetation and by other means. To effectively do this, these measures will require a realistic strategy. IUCN supports efforts to reduce emissions, enhance sequestration of greenhouse gases, and ensure that appropriate knowledge, policies and funding are mobilized to conserve the biodiversity that will be essential for adapting to climate change.

The fragile, often low lying, island environments of Pacific Island countries will be among the first and most highly impacted countries in the world to be affected by climate change. It is therefore vital that urgent action is taken to address the effects of human-induced climatic changes. IUCN is committed to supporting government efforts to take action to meet this challenge. Although climate change is now integrated into all programme areas, in 2009-2010 initiatives were launched to respond to this issue.

Pacific Mangroves Initiative

The Pacific Mangroves Initiative (PMI) is a regional umbrella partnership on climate change. It seeks to stimulate coordinated investment in the conservation of mangrove and associated coastal ecosystems for improved livelihoods, biodiversity conservation and adaptation and mitigation to climate change, with mangroves as the 'flagship' ecosystem. Improving livelihoods and reducing vulnerability to climate change are priority concerns in the Pacific.



This is particularly relevant in most coastal areas in the region where a large majority of Pacific Islanders live and depend on coastal ecosystems such as mangroves and coral reefs for food, medicine and cultural values, as well as protection against storm surges and cyclones. These natural ecosystems are under stress from human activities, directly causing degradation and habitat loss and indirectly through pollution and stresses like climate change. Weak governance, limited baseline information, lack of awareness and limited local capacity are some of the key challenges for mangrove management in the Pacific. The Pacific Mangroves Initiative is seeking to build resilient ecosystems that support sustainable mangrove and coastal zone management. Strengthening institutional and individual capacities for informed decision making on the wise use and management of resources is also a key priority for the initiative. Working with partners such as the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), UNDP, and countries of the region - this partnership will develop and promote sustainable livelihoods, as well as exploring the mitigation of, and ecosystem-based adaptation to, climate change.

Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods

The Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods project (MESCAL), under the Pacific Mangroves Initiative, was initiated in 2009. This is a four year country-driven project that will focus on five Pacific countries - namely Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. With funding support by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under their International Climate Initiative, the project will help strengthen national policies on mangrove ecosystem management and seek to form partnerships that encourage joint management of mangrove ecosystems through shared ownership and responsibilities between national and sub-national governments, communities and the private sector. MESCAL will also focus on identifying stakeholder-based solutions using traditional knowledge and scientific evidence to positively influence decision-making at all levels of governance. Targeted individual and institutional capacity development of government, NGO, and community members are seen as important factors in mangrove conservation practices and rehabilitation.

Information Briefs

IUCN has initiated, in partnership with core regional agencies, an Information Brief Series to increase community awareness and knowledge about key resource and environmental issues as well as potential response and management options relevant to the Pacific Island Countries. The first Information Brief - Ecosystem based Adaptation (EbA) - was released in time for the 2009 UNFCCC COP. This was developed by IUCN together with SPREP and SPC. The key focus of the Information Brief Series is "Investing in Nature and Natural Infrastructure".

Sustainable energy choices

Modern societies are in the midst of reducing their dependence on petroleum and are seeking to adopt a much more diverse mix of energy sources. Managing this transition will be a major challenge with substantial risks to biodiversity and human well-being. IUCN's approach lies in influencing this transition and will be based on generating knowledge about the impacts of various energy alternatives on biodiversity, designing appropriate policy measures to ensure appropriate governance, and demonstrating how biodiversity can be conserved even while new forms of energy are being developed.

Some Pacific Island countries are global leaders in approaches to creating low-carbon energy mixes. Governments are working on strengthening their national energy systems based on a mix of alternative sources of energy, innovative distribution systems and influencing consumption patterns. Decisions are being made that ensure their energy futures are reducing reliance on fossil fuels and increasing the use of renewable energy technologies. IUCN is a key player in these discussions.

Building capacity for environmental and social impact assessment

As Pacific Islands transform their energy systems towards lower carbon-renewable mixes, energy practitioners and policy makers are sensitive to the need to manage the environmental and social implications of new approaches. Thus, IUCN convened a training course on environmental planning tools for energy practitioners, energy planners and environmental policy makers in the Pacific Islands. The two-day course introduced participants to environmental and social impact assessments (ESIA) through an interactive hands-on process. Participants reflected on the importance of addressing biodiversity issues through case studies, hands-on examples and discussions on the importance of stakeholder consultations. This workshop was conducted in November 2009, in Nadi, Fiji.

Demonstrating low-carbon approaches and efficient models for the energy sector

IUCN is implementing the project - Managing the Ecosystem and Livelihood Implications of Energy Policies in the Pacific Island States (Pacific SIDS – EESLI) - in conjunction with six Pacific Island Governments. This initiative is working to accelerate the transition to energy systems that are ecologically efficient, sustainable and socially equitable. In partnership with the Governments of Italy and Austria, models on low-carbon approaches have been demonstrated in four renewable energy projects and two energy efficiency projects in Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, Palau, Vanuatu and the Republic of Marshall Islands. Results from the six projects include activities on the ground and working regionally to ensure that an innovative and comprehensive approach is adopted by the energy sector in the Pacific.

Low Carbon-Energy Islands: Accelerating the Use of Energy Efficient and Renewable Energy Technologies

This new project aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the utilization of energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies and strengthen national capacities in both the public and private sectors in Tuvalu, Nauru and Niue. This GEF project is being executed by UNEP and implemented by IUCN Oceania. The current phase of the project will develop a Project Identification Fiche (PIF) and a full scale project proposal by the end of 2010. IUCN convened national and regional consultations in early 2010 to identify national priorities and possible regional activities. Opportunities identified include legislation and policy development, relevant renewable energy and energy efficiency studies and designs, and pilot projects. The design of the initiative will continue throughout the year, and, upon approval longer-term support will be available to meet national needs and priorities of the participating three countries.

Regional cooperation - establishing partnerships

IUCN continues to build energy-related synergies with partners and regional organizations. These development partners include the Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union, Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC), Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), United Nations Environment Programme, United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank. IUCN is now a member of an energy oversight group comprising mostly regional agencies to review the Regional Energy Policy. These synergistic partnerships ensure that lessons that IUCN is developing can be duplicated, and shared between all partners.



All energy options can have negative effects on both the environment and people. The best options are those that are socially, economically and environmentally sustainable. The option to cycle as an alternative mode of transport is very much a challenge for many Pacific Island countries, yet this option offers multiple benefits for its users undoubtedly reducing their energy use. © Dom Sansom

Monitoring and evaluation of energy initiative

An independent mid-term review for the Pacific SIDS - EESLI project confirmed suitable approaches and progress have been made on the project. It highlighted the importance of innovative approaches that delivers benefits to communities, with a number of recommendations provided in the review. IUCN has noted the proposal to refine the strategic approach to the broader Oceania Energy Programme. This process has been initiated and will be completed in 2010.

Gender and energy

In recognizing the importance of gender considerations in all of IUCN's activities, the Energy programme has been collaborating with the ENERGIA International network and the SPC's Energy and Gender Network, to ensure gender is mainstreamed into the Pacific SIDS - EESLI Project. A literature and institutional review has been completed, assessing the capacity of project implementers to address gender issues. Gender action plans have also been produced as part of this exercise, highlighting gender entry points into work plans of each project. A capacity-building regional workshop for national project coordinators and

energy planners provided the opportunity for project implementers to adopt a gender lens in assessing their respective projects. The EESLI-IUCN field demonstrations have been used as case studies for a number of gender training activities.

Bringing the bicycle back

The transport sector is one of the top consumers of fossil fuels in Pacific Island Countries. To reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the transport sector, IUCN Oceania is working with the Department of Energy in Fiji, promoting the use of non-motorised transport such as bicycles. A taskforce of relevant stakeholders has been established to promote and guide this initiative. The President of Fiji, His Excellency Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, launched Lifecycle Fiji in Suva on May 1st 2010 and joined a promotional ride in Suva, Fiji's capital city. A similar initiative is being undertaken in the Kingdom of Tonga in cooperation with the SPC.

Managing nature for human well-being



Pacific islanders have a deep connection to the ocean. It features in their dance and art, links closely to their cultural practises, and supplies a significant portion of their sustenance. Human activity is putting pressure on the Pacific Ocean - the world's largest natural resource.
© Salote Sauturaga

Improving livelihoods, reducing poverty and vulnerability, and enhancing environmental and human security through sustainable resource management

Improving lives and reducing poverty will rely on natural ecosystems continuing to sustain livelihood needs. Natural systems provide basic goods and services such as clean air, food, water and other natural products. Yet, in many places in the world biodiversity and natural resources are under threat disabling their ability to efficiently support human life. In Oceania, people are heavily reliant on natural resources to meet their daily needs. Managing natural resources to support sustainable livelihoods and ecosystem services is vitally important to the Pacific region's health and wealth. Many Pacific Islands are experiencing increasing pressures on their rivers, wetlands, forests, coasts and oceans. These pressures which include increasing population, pollution and development, are impacting on livelihoods, health, economies and ecosystems; natural disasters are frequent and devastating. Natural systems can contribute to the mitigation of such disasters.



Water and nature in the Pacific

IUCN Oceania has focused on the delivery of a regional approach to the IUCN global Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) to provide the basis for the development of the Water Programme for IUCN Oceania. In 2009, three sites were chosen to demonstrate the principles of management of water and nature in the Pacific region. Two of these sites are in Fiji: in the island of Kadavu and the Nadi Basin, and the third in the Togitogiga catchment, Samoa.

WANI in Nakasaleka District, Kadavu, Fiji, has been designed to expand the approaches of the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) to watershed and catchment management. The idea of safeguarding watershed catchments to conserve ecosystem services is a new challenge for the people of Nakasaleka. IUCN member, the University of the South Pacific together with IUCN Oceania, is working with the people of this community to empower decision-making on the use of water resources in their catchment areas. The communities have agreed to form a catchment committee to develop and implement activities to maintain and restore their catchments.

WANI in the Nadi Basin, Fiji, is supporting the development of an integrated governance model for catchment management through support to the recently formed Nadi Basin Catchment Committee established in 2008. The Nadi River basin regularly suffers from heavy flooding, the most recent being the disastrous floods of 2009. IUCN is supporting this committee to undertake stakeholder engagement, ensure environmental considerations are incorporated into the development of the flood management plan and support the collection of environmental information for input into the planning process. IUCN is also providing guidance on legal and policy issues.

WANI in the Togitogiga Catchment, Samoa, has finalised the proposal to develop and implement a watershed management plan using the 2008 legislative framework of the Samoan Water Resources Management Act. Togitogiga River is the main source of water for downstream communities and has a unique biodiversity. However the recent tsunami, increasing population and development pressures are degrading this catchment due to soil erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution. The initiative will seek to

identify the balance between anthropogenic demands on the catchment and biodiversity conservation.

IUCN joins dialogue on Pacific fisheries

IUCN has been granted observer status at the Western and Central Pacific Fisheries Commission (WCPFC). The Commission meets to develop agreements on management and conservation measures for highly migratory fish stocks (including Albacore, Yellowfin, and Big-eye tuna species, billfish such as marlin and broadbill swordfish) and sharks.

Fisheries, biodiversity and seamounts – Investigating the links

The role of seamounts in our oceans, and especially for the fishing industry, is yet to be fully unveiled. Over the last two years, IUCN has been able to bring to light some insight on the important ecological role of seamounts through a study focussed on determining the ecological impact of longline fishing on seamounts. In particular, the study explored the pelagic longline fishing conducted on or close to seamounts, differences in fishing methods used near seamounts and other factors including predation, and the relative catch rates of target and by-catch species. This information was compiled in a draft report as a contribution to the seamount component of the Oceanic Fisheries Management Project (OFMP). A workshop in Nadi in April 2010 brought together scientists, fishermen and national fisheries managers to discuss seamounts and their relevance to fisheries. Participants at the workshop called for more attention to be focussed on seamounts in the next phase of the OFMP.

Greening the economy

Virtually all environmental problems have an economic component, and many are driven by market imperfections. While it is unrealistic to ever expect perfect markets, IUCN seeks to better inform market decisions, helping to ensure that the full impacts of economic decisions on ecosystems are well understood (and quantified where possible). If decision makers are better informed about the full implications of their decisions, and the public is well informed about these implications, economic policies are more likely to support sustainable development and the biodiversity upon which human well-being depends.

Today's economies generally fail to support the sustainable management of ecosystems, primarily because the full value of biodiversity is not taken into account. Despite significant progress in many countries, much work remains to be done to widen and deepen the incorporation of environmental values and related livelihood concerns in economic policy, markets and finance, particularly with respect to biodiversity, intangible ecosystem services and poverty reduction. A related priority is to develop new sources of finance for biodiversity conservation, together with improved allocation mechanisms to ensure more cost-effective and more equitable conservation. The challenge is not so much conceptual or technical as it is political, namely to persuade the public and policy makers that economic policies and markets can and should be reformed to support ecosystem conservation. Recent experiences globally suggest that economic information can play an important role, as was recently experienced in relation to climate change. The Stern review on the Economic costs of climate change helped to increase attention of global leaders about the costs of inaction.

The starting point in the Pacific is to build capacity within government agencies and private business to assess and reduce adverse environmental impacts. An important part of this capacity development is the generation of Pacific relevant empirical information about economic values associated with for example biodiversity conservation through protected area management, through the control of invasives, or the economic costs of disasters and climate change.



How much is being taken from our rivers? These freshwater mussels and mud crabs are often sold at local markets in the region. Better management of natural resources will ensure lasting sustainable markets for all. Business needs biodiversity. © Kelvin Passfield

Pacific Resource and Environmental Economics Network (PREEN)

IUCN, in partnership with the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, established the Pacific Resource and Environmental Economics Network (PREEN) to serve as a professional body to promote and mainstream the use of economics in environmental management within the region. The first activity of this network was the September workshop on “Experiences in the Use of Economics in Resource and Environmental Management”, bringing together ten resource economists from countries such as Australia, American Samoa and Fiji. This network is anticipated to grow and develop and contribute to increased use and quality of environmental economics in the region.

Study on impact of floods on the Fiji sugar belt

The floods that devastated Fiji in January 2009 were reported as the worst to have hit the nation since 1931. In response to this natural disaster, IUCN was commissioned to complete the report “Economic Costs of the 2009 Floods in the Fiji Sugar Belt and Policy Implications”. This report completed in conjunction with the Fiji Government’s Department of Lands & Survey was funded by the European Commission. The report estimated that the floods had incurred economic losses of over FJ\$24 million – strongly indicating the importance of flood prevention measures and better planning. The study highlighted that the vulnerability of local communities in the sugar belt was determined not only by the nature and intensity of the flooding, but also by factors such as the condition of local ecosystems, the nature of the farm production systems and the health of the industry. The damage caused by the flooding to both farming and urban communities was the result of a complex interaction of physical, geographic and economic characteristics. This study is expected to serve as an important part of a regional training course currently being developed by the Pacific Islands Geoscience Commission in partnership with IUCN Oceania, UNISDR and UNESCAP Disaster Cost Assessment.

Enhancing the nature conservation dialogue

IUCN Oceania and the University of the South Pacific launched a public lecture series in June 2009 under the theme “Getting Development Right – Investing in Natural Capital”. The series was launched by IUCN’s Director General, Julia Marton-Lefevre. Key speakers at the lecture series have provided a forum to raise issues of interest to the region, as well as challenge leaders, professionals and other stakeholders to look outside the box of their traditional comfort zones when tackling economic development, environmental and social challenges facing us in the Pacific.



IUCN Oceania Regional Committee

The IUCN Oceania Regional Committee is comprised of all Councillors from the region, the Chairs of National Committees, regional representatives from Commissions and partner organisations.

Members

Regional Councillors

- Mr. Robin Yarrow
Fiji Islands
- Diana Shand
New Zealand
- Brendan Mackey
Australia

National Committees

- Virginia Young
Representative,
Australian Committee for IUCN
- Wren Green
Representative,
New Zealand Committee for IUCN
- Marika Tuiwawa
Representative,
Pacific Island Members of IUCN

Observers

Commission Representatives

- Aroha Te Pareake Mead
New Zealand
Commission on Environmental, Economic &
Social Policy

- Penelope Figgis
Australia
World Commission on Protected Areas
- Dr. Milika Sobey
Fiji Islands
Commission on Ecosystem Management
- Professor Konai Helu Thaman
Fiji Islands
Commission on Education and Communication
- Pepe Clarke
Australia
Commission on Environmental Law
- Maj Depoorter
New Zealand
Species Survival Commission

SPREP Observer

- Stuart Chape
Secretariat of the Pacific Environment
Programme

IUCN Donor Partners in Oceania

Multilateral

Global Environment Facility Secretariat
Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission (SOPAC)
Pacific Island Forum Fisheries Agency
Secretariat of the Pacific Environment Programme (SPREP)
UNDP - Regional Office for Asia-Pacific
UNEP/GEF UNEP Division of GEF Coordination
University of the South Pacific (USP)

Bilateral

British High Commission, Fiji
Federal Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of Austria
French Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et Europeennes
German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Directorate General for Development Cooperation
Netherlands - Directorate General for International Cooperation
State Department, US Embassy, Fiji

International/National NGOs and Organisations

Conservation International – Pacific Islands Programme
Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund – Polynesia, Conservation International
World Wide Fund for Nature – South Pacific Programme
Wildlife Conservation Society – Fiji Programme

IUCN Oceania Members

Between 2009 and May 2010, IUCN welcomed five new Members from the Pacific Islands: Nauru (State Member), Republic of Fiji Islands (State Member), Solomon Islands (State Member), Direction de l'environnement de la province Sud, New Caledonia (Affiliate), and Te Mana o te Moana - French Polynesia (NGO).

In 2009/10 IUCN was represented at regional and national committee meetings in Australia, New Zealand and Fiji as well as visiting members in their respective countries. During her June 2009 visit to the Oceania Region, IUCN Director-General, Julia Marton-Lefevre, met with 15 Australian Members, 7 New Zealand Members and 4 Pacific Island Members. IUCN's Oceania Office was also honoured to host a number of Members including the University of the South Pacific, National Trust of Fiji Islands, Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices, Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service, WWF New Zealand, Tonga Community Development Trust, Direction de l'environnement de la province Sud, New Caledonia, and the Department of Environment, Fiji.

Australia

- Australian Centre for Climate and Environmental Law (ACCEL)
- Australian Conservation Foundation
- Australian Marine Conservation Society (AMCS)
- Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices Ltd. (ANEDO)
- Australian Rainforest Conservation Society (ARCS)
- Centre for International and Environmental Law (MU CIEL)
- Conservation Volunteers Australia (CVA)
- Department of Environment and Conservation
- Department of the Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts (DEWHA)
- Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water
- Department of Sustainability and Environment
- Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport
- Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand (EIANZ)
- Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland (GBRMPA)
- Institute of Foresters of Australia
- National Environmental Law Association (NELA)
- National Parks Association of New South Wales
- National Parks Australia Council (NPAC)
- Nature Conservation Council of New South Wales
- Parks Victoria
- Project Jonah Australia
- South Australian Department for Environment and Heritage
- The Wilderness Society
- Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service (QPWS)
- University of Canberra, Faculty of Applied Science
- Wet Tropics Management Authority (WTMA)
- WWF-Australia

Fiji

- Department of Environment
- National Trust of Fiji Islands
- University of the South Pacific
-

French Polynesia

- Te Mana o te Moana (TMOTM) / Spirit of the Ocean

Nauru

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

New Caledonia

- Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néo-Calédonienne, Nouvelle-Calédonie / Association for the Protection of the Nature of New Caledonia
- Direction de l'environnement de la province Sud (DENV) / Southern Province Environment Directorate

New Zealand

- Department of Conservation
- Environment and Conservation Organizations of New Zealand (ECO)
- International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA)
- Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd.
- Lincoln University, Faculty of Environment, Society and Design
- New Zealand Conservation Authority
- New Zealand Ecological Society (NZES)
- Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand
- WWF - New Zealand

Solomon Islands

- Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology

Tonga

- Tonga Community Development Trust (TCDT)

IUCN Commissions in Oceania



Commission on Education and Communication

CEC champions the strategic use of communication and education to empower and educate stakeholders for the sustainable use of natural resources.

Current Chair: Keith Wheeler
Deputy Chair: Wendy Goldstein
Oceania Regional Vice Chair: Konai Thaman
Members: 600

To join the Commission please contact the CEC Membership Liaison Officer, Cecilia Nizzola-Tabja, ctn@iucn.org

For more information on CEC's activities in

- the Pacific Islands: contact Konai Thaman, thaman_k@usp.ac.fj
- Australia and New Zealand: contact Wendy Goldstein, wgoldste@gse.mq.edu.au



Commission on Ecosystem Management

CEM provides expert guidance on integrated ecosystem approaches to the management of natural and modified ecosystems.

Current Chair: Piet Wit
Oceania Regional Vice Chair: Milika Sobey
Members: 400

To apply to join the Commission, please send a CV to Patricia Hawes, pah@iucn.org

For more information on CEM activities in Oceania, contact Milika Sobey, milika.sobey@iucn.org



Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy

CEESP provides expertise and policy advice on economic and social factors for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity.

Current Chair: Aroha Mead
Oceania Regional Vice Chair: Lea M. Scherl
Members: 1000

To join the Commission, please send an e-mail to ceesp@iucn.org
For more information on CEESP activities in Oceania please contact:

- Elizabeth Erasito, CEESP Executive Officer, eeerasito@nationaltrust.org.fj or
- Lea M. Scherl, Regional Vice Chair, lea.scherl@bigpond.com



Species Survival Commission

SSC advises the Union on the technical aspects of species conservation and mobilizes action for those species that are threatened with extinction.

Current Chair: Simon Stuart
Members: 7500.

Most members are deployed in more than 100 Specialist Groups and Task Forces.

For more information please contact: Simon Stuart, SSC Chair, simon.stuart@iucn.org, or Maj De Poorter, Regional Focal Point, M.dePoorter@forestandbird.org.nz



Commission on Environmental Law

CEL advances environmental law by developing new legal concepts and instruments, and by building the capacity of societies to employ environmental law for conservation and sustainable development.

Current Chair: Sheila Abed
Members: 800

To apply to become a member, please contact Maria Zanotti, CEL Liaison Officer, maria.zanotti@idea.org.py
For more information on CEL activities or potential engagement in Oceania please contact:

- Pepe Clarke, Regional Focal Point for Pacific Islands, pepe.clarke@gmail.com
- Ilona Millar, Regional Focal Point for Australia, Ilona.Millar@bakermckenzie.com



World Commission on Protected Areas

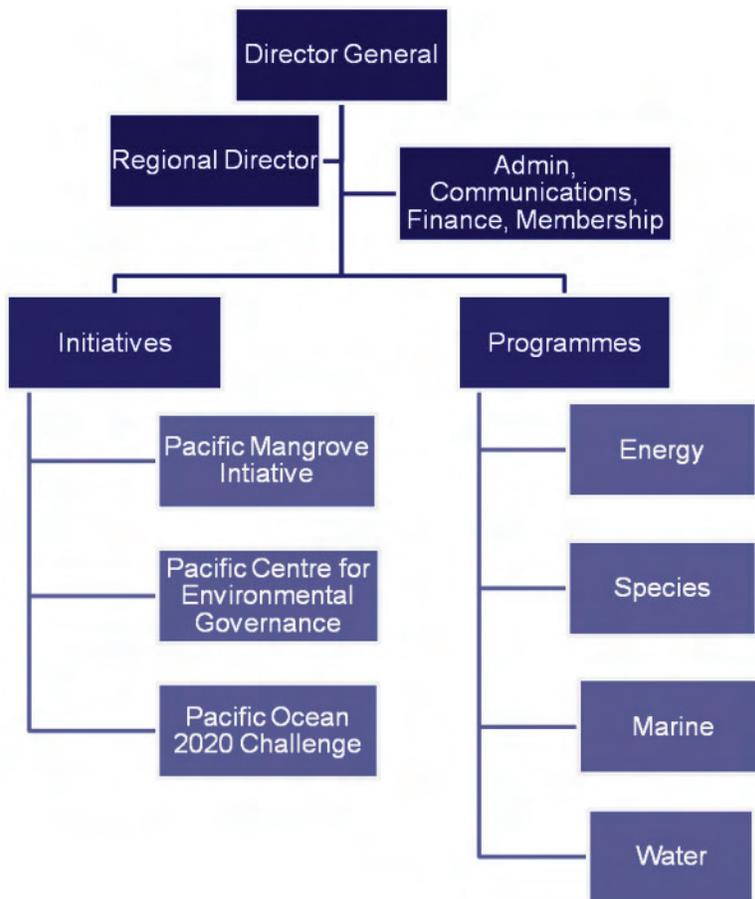
WCPA promotes the establishment and effective management of a worldwide representative network of terrestrial and marine protected areas.

Current Chair: Nik Lopoukhine
Oceania Regional Vice Chair: Penelope Figgis
Oceania Region Deputy Vice Chair: Elizabeth Erasito
Members: 1300.

For more information on WCPA activities in Oceania please contact either Penelope Figgis, penelope.figgis@ozemail.com.au or Elizabeth Erasito, eeerasito@nationaltrust.org.fj.

To apply to be a member of the Commission please contact Delwyn Dupuis, WCPA Membership Focal Point, Delwyn.dupuis@iucn.org

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