



INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE

OCEANIA REGIONAL OFFICE

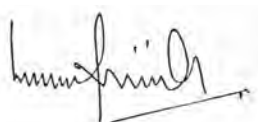
ANNUAL REPORT 2018



Contents

2	Foreword
4	IUCN Councillors' Remarks
5	Overview of IUCN
6	IUCN in Oceania
7	Our Members
8	Valuing and Conserving Nature
12	Deploying Nature-based Solutions
17	Effective and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources
20	Celebrating 7 Decades of Conservation
21	Our Commissions
22	Our Partners and Donors
23	Our Staff
24	Acronyms

Foreword



Mason Smith
Regional Director

Bula, I have much pleasure in providing this foreword to the 2018 IUCN Oceania Regional Office (ORO) annual report which outlines some of the many achievements by IUCN in the Oceania region.

ORO's Species Programme which is funded by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) continued to assist countries in the East Melanesian Islands Hotspots with capacity building and funding to address the major drivers of species loss and ecosystem degradation and improve the sustainable management and conservation of species. Over 80 grants totalling over USD5 Million has since been disbursed to grantees since the USD9 Million project commenced in 2013 with 15 new grants totalling USD Million approved in 2018.

In 2018, the Marine Programme working in partnership with GIZ and SPREP closed the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) project which was funded by BMU. During the year, the MACBIO project team defined bioregions and inshore and offshore special, unique marine areas (SUMAs) and developed design principles for offshore networks of Marine Protected Areas in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The project team also assisted in drafting a Solomon Islands' Ocean Policy. Similar work to provide Tonga with a national framework for integrated ocean governance is in progress. National consultations are continuing in all project countries and a peer-to-peer MSP workshop was held in Fiji to finalize a MSP toolkit for the Pacific.

The Protected Areas Programme hosted the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Pacific Regional Inception Workshop in Samoa in June 2018 to provide the over 100 participants with an update on the new phase of the programme and discussed priorities for protected and conserved areas in Oceania. During the year, the project team also conducted reviews of protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments. SPREP also continued to work with countries on updating PA data on the portal.

In March 2018, The Water & Wetlands Programme hosted the Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction workshop in Suva, Fiji which was co-hosted by the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), and Mangroves for the Future (MFF). The workshop focused on opportunities for moving beyond pilot initiatives and scaling up mangrove conservation and restoration in the region. A similar workshop was held in Tonga in October/November 2018.

The Climate Change Mitigation and Risk Reduction (CCMRR) Programme continued to assist countries through the Italy, Austria, Luxembourg and Spain funded Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (EESLI) to build resilience to climate change through demonstration project to accelerate the transition to energy systems that are ecologically efficient, sustainable, and socially equitable and in turn reduce CHG emissions.



Yellow-bibbed lory, Solomon Islands
Credit: Jan van der Ploeg/WorldFish

The project developed a low carbon policy for Samoa, assisted with rehabilitation for the solar systems in Tonga, developed a Waste Oil Management Guideline for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and introduced Energy Loan Schemes in Palau and Tonga. Nine small grants were managed in 2018 as part of this project. The GEFPAS Low Carbon Island project was closed in 2018.

The Governance Programme worked with the Government of Fiji in 2018 to develop the Fiji National Framework and Strategic Actions for Developing a National System of (Terrestrial) Protected Areas. Further work is needed to dovetail this framework and that of the Marine Protected Areas Framework into a singular National Framework for Protected Areas in Fiji. In addition, the project design team worked with the Governments of the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu on two GEF6 projects to advance work on protected areas governance, management and effectiveness in these two countries.

Furthermore, the project team, in partnership with health and environment specialists from the University of Sydney, Edith Cowan University and the Pacific Community and funded by the Wellcome Trust and the United Nations Development Program UNDP initiated, and convened the inaugural Oceania Planetary Health Forum in November 2018 in Fiji. The forum brought together organisational leaders, subject matter experts, practitioners and researchers in both public

health and the environment and ecology, from the Oceania region and beyond, intent on reviewing and discussing recent developments in these fields and identifies priority actions for the region. The forum produced a call to action document that has been widely disseminated.

During the year we said farewell to Ms. Luisa Tagicakibau who took up a new career with the Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA) in Honiara, Solomon Islands. We thank Lu for her many contributions to IUCN and wish her and her family the very best in their new endeavours. We also welcomed Paul and Clea to the team and look forward to their contributions in the field of Protected Areas. A new Membership Officer was recruited in early 2018 to ensure that the Secretariat continued to remain fully engaged with all its Members, Commissions and Regional Councillors. We also celebrated IUCN's 70th birthday on 5 October 2018 which was graciously hosted by the French Ambassador to Fiji at his residence and graced by HE the President of Fiji and guests.

All in all, 2018 was a productive year for the IUCN Oceania Regional Office and I wish to say vinaka vakalevu to all the staff who contributed to our successes and I look forward to another great year in 2019.

Together let us value and conserve nature.

IUCN Councillors' Remarks



Anna Tiraa
Andrew Bignell
Peter Cochrane

*IUCN Councillors, elected from
Oceania for 2016-2020*

Bula Vinaka,

IUCN Oceania Councillors enjoyed a busy and productive year in 2018.

Peter Cochrane was actively involved in the work of the Australian Committee for IUCN, participating in a variety of government and non-government workshops and conferences in his role as an IUCN Councillor. This included the WCPA Workshop on Connectivity Conservation and the “Better Laws for a Better Planet” symposium, both held in Canberra. He also provided input to Australian Government reports including the country’s first SDG report, the OECD Environmental Performance Report, and processes relating to the Post-2020 Biodiversity Framework. Peter was a keynote speaker on oceans at the Parks 2050 Conference in New Zealand in June and on World Heritage at the Eco Forum Global Annual Conference in China in July.

On Council, Peter actively participated in the Policy and Programme Committee (PPC), is on the Council Taskforce on the Post 2020 Biodiversity Framework, and the Council Taskforce on the Retirement of Motions. Peter was also a member of the Bureau of the IUCN Council, which acts on behalf, and under the authority of the Council between meetings, for the first half of 2018.

Andrew Bignell has keenly contributed to the New Zealand National Committee of IUCN, which developed a strategic framework for activities and action plan for the next two years using the IUCN Programme framework.

Ana Tiraa is one of four Vice Presidents of IUCN. In September, she represented IUCN at the United Nations General Assembly, and presented at the side event Advancing Global Biodiversity Conservation through Global Leadership and Shared Responsibility.

In June, Ana attended the Pacific Regional BIOPAMA Inception Workshop in Samoa, and on Council she is a member of the IUCN Climate Change Task Force, the Programme and Policy Committee, the Ethics Committee and the Nominations committee, and is also a member of the Bureau of the IUCN Council.

Overview of IUCN

IUCN is a membership Union uniquely composed of both government and civil society organisations. It provides public, private and non-governmental organisations with the knowledge and tools that enable human progress, economic development and nature conservation to take place together.

Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its more than 1,300 Member organisations and the input of some 10,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Our experts are organised into six commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication.

The ability to convene diverse stakeholders and provide the latest science, objective recommendations and on-the-ground expertise drives IUCN's mission of informing and empowering conservation efforts worldwide. We provide a neutral forum in which governments, NGOs, scientists, businesses, local communities, indigenous peoples groups, faith-based organisations and others can work together to forge and implement solutions to environmental challenges.

By facilitating these solutions, IUCN provides governments and institutions at all levels with the impetus to achieve universal goals, including on biodiversity, climate change and sustainable development, which IUCN was instrumental in defining.

Combined, our knowledge base and diverse membership make IUCN an incubator and trusted repository of best practices, conservation tools, and international guidelines and standards. As the only environmental

organisation with official United Nations Observer Status, IUCN ensures that nature conservation has a voice at the highest level of international governance.

IUCN's expertise and extensive network provide a solid foundation for a large and diverse portfolio of conservation projects around the world. Combining the latest science with the traditional knowledge of local communities, these projects work to reverse habitat loss, restore ecosystems and improve people's well-being. They also produce a wealth of data and information which feeds into IUCN's analytical capacity.

Through their affiliation with IUCN, Member organisations are part of a democratic process, voting Resolutions which drive the global conservation agenda. They meet every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress to set priorities and agree on the Union's work programme. IUCN congresses have produced several key international environmental agreements including the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), the World Heritage Convention, and the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. We continue to help these conventions strengthen and evolve so that they can respond to emerging challenges.

Our Member organisations are represented by the IUCN Council – the governing body. Headquartered in Switzerland, IUCN Secretariat comprises around 950 staff in more than 50 countries.

IUCN in Oceania



The IUCN Oceania region is comprised of the 24 countries and territories of Polynesia, Micronesia, Melanesia, Australia and New Zealand. Oceania is geographically one of IUCN's largest regional programmes, covering over 100 million km² of land and ocean. Oceania also contains a diverse range of ecosystems, from coral reefs to kelp forests, mangroves to montane forests, and wetlands to deserts.

Throughout the Pacific, nature supports the daily livelihoods of island communities. Nature is both culturally significant and the primary source of food, water and income. However, increasing pressures from growing populations, extractive industries, infrastructure developments and invasive species are increasing the rate of biodiversity loss in many countries.

Australia and New Zealand lead the region's

economic development, and have solid capacity in the environmental management of developments. The countries and territories of the Pacific Islands have also been continually developing and improving their environmental governance and policies. IUCN often acts as a broker for the environment, encouraging governments, like-minded organisations and communities to work together for the sustainable management of nature's resources.

Our Members

IUCN's Oceania Regional Office is the focal point for administering and serving Member organisations in the Oceania region. In 2018, there were 56 members based in the Oceania region, representing about 4% of global IUCN membership. One organisation joined the Union in 2018; New South Wales Biodiversity Conservation Trust from Australia.

<p>Ministry of Natural Resources, Environment and Tourism, Palau</p> <p>The Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Vanuatu</p> <p>Ministry of Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management, Environment, Climate Change & Communications (MEIDECC), Tonga</p> <p>Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Solomon Islands</p> <p>Department of Commerce Industry and Environment, CIC, Nauru</p> <p>Department of Environment, Fiji</p> <p>Department of Conservation, New Zealand</p> <p>Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa</p> <p>Department of the Environment and Energy, Australia</p> <p>Queensland Department of National Parks, Sport and Racing, Australia</p> <p>Blue Mountains World Heritage Institute, Australia</p>	<p>Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability Programme, Pacific Community (New Caledonia)*</p> <p>Niue Island United Association of Non-Government Organisations (Niue)</p> <p>Micronesian Shark Foundation (Palau)</p> <p>Environment Tasmania (Australia)</p> <p>Palau Protected Areas Network Fund (Palau)</p> <p>Palau Conservation Society (Palau)</p> <p>North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Limited (Australia)</p> <p>Tenkile Conservation Alliance (PNG)</p> <p>Te Ipukarea Society (Cook Islands)</p> <p>Te Mana o te Moana (French Polynesia)*</p> <p>Environmental Defenders Offices of Australia</p> <p>Earthwatch Institute (Australia)</p> <p>Conservation Volunteers Australia</p> <p>Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand</p> <p>Department of Biodiversity, Conservation & Attraction, Western Australia</p> <p>National Environmental Law Association (Australia)</p> <p>Australian Rainforest Conservation Society</p>
<p>Australian Marine Conservation Society</p> <p>Centre for International and Environmental Law (Macquarie University)</p> <p>National Parks Australia Council</p> <p>Institute of Foresters of Australia</p> <p>Tasmanian Land Conservancy Inc. (Australia)</p> <p>WWF - New Zealand</p> <p>WWF-Australia</p> <p>Environment and Conservation Organisations of New Zealand</p> <p>Project Jonah (Australia)</p> <p>The Wilderness Society (Australia)</p> <p>New South Wales Biodiversity Conservation Trust (Australia)</p> <p>Lincoln University, Faculty of Environment, Society and Design (New Zealand)</p> <p>National Trust of Fiji Islands (Fiji)</p> <p>Australian Conservation Foundation</p> <p>Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society of New Zealand</p> <p>University of the South Pacific (Fiji)</p>	<p>Zoos Victoria (Australia)</p> <p>Territory and Municipal Services Directorate, Australian Capital Territory</p> <p>Parks Victoria (Australia)</p> <p>Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd.</p> <p>Wet Tropics Management Authority (Australia)</p> <p>New Zealand Conservation Authority</p> <p>Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Northern Territory (Australia)</p> <p>Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland (Australia)</p> <p>Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Queensland (Australia)</p> <p>Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning, Victoria (Australia)</p> <p>Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia</p> <p>Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales (Australia)</p> <p>Direction de l'environnement de la province Sud (New Caledonia)*</p>

** (asterisk) - Members that are from the French territories*



Oakaulevu Reef, Fiji
Credit: Stuart Chape

Oceania and its ecologically rich ocean and islands host an enormous share of the planet's biodiversity. Its biodiversity is characterised by exceptionally high levels of endemism and species diversity. This underpins Oceania's ecosystems and these in turn provide an immense number of services, directly supporting the daily livelihoods of millions of people.

Natural resources across the Pacific Islands are used, customarily owned, governed and managed by local communities, and nature is a central element of island culture and society, underpinning the social and economic livelihoods of people.

IUCN Oceania supports governments, members and communities to improve the sustainable management and conservation of species and ecosystems, and to address the major drivers of biodiversity loss.

MANAGING OCEANIA'S MARINE AND COASTAL BIODIVERSITY

The Pacific Ocean, the largest ocean in the world, is under great pressure and not just inshore, but offshore as well. Holistic spatial ocean planning that is cross-sectoral, inclusive and integrated is an essential component of a sustainable ocean future for Oceania.

Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu asked the Marine Program at IUCN Oceania to provide support as they transform their ocean management, and IUCN has been acting on these requests through a number of projects, partners and donors.

Working with IUCN members

IUCN member countries Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu have been working hard, across Ministerial silos, to transform their ocean management to a more sustainable and integrated pathway. In all these countries, the ocean planning taking place is at a national scale – a notable accomplishment for these large ocean states. IUCN in partnership with GIZ and SPREP, has been helping the countries via the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) project, funded by BMU, and which completed in 2018. Combined with additional and ongoing support from the Oceans 5 international philanthropic collaborative, the IUCN marine team have supported the following impressive achievements.

A global first: describing 100% of the marine environment of Pacific Island countries at a scale useful for national planning

With in-country experts, IUCN launched reports defining inshore and offshore special, unique marine areas (SUMAs) in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, as well as reports describing marine bioregions throughout each nation. The SUMAs are now being used in all these member countries to inform Environmental Impact Assessments, permits and licensing, as well as the national coastal and ocean spatial planning.

The marine bioregions defined within these nations provide, for the first time, a systematic and defensible basis for identifying “ecologically representative” networks of marine protected areas as per all the countries’ commitments under the Convention of Biological Diversity.

Another global first: design principles for offshore networks of Marine Protected Areas

Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu are also using, for the first time, biophysical design principles for offshore networks of marine protected areas based upon best available science. This was possible due to the completion of a MACBIO report which reviewed the global literature on the biophysical features (including habitats and species) of our oceans, marine protected area effectiveness in oceans and what’s known about marine protected area design.

Not just marine spatial planning: integrated ocean governance!

But in the Solomon Islands, the aspirations are still greater – they are developing an Integrated Ocean Policy to help coordinate ocean uses and management across all Ministries and all sectors. In their work, they are taking on board lessons learned by colleagues in Vanuatu, where IUCN helped deliver the Pacific Islands’ first Ocean Policy, and a first draft of the Solomon Islands’ Ocean Policy has been completed. Tonga is also moving to a national framework for integrated ocean governance, with IUCN’s support.

Pacific Island nations manage oceans with their people

All these nations have already or will soon be inviting detailed and comprehensive community and stakeholder input to these national planning efforts and IUCN has been pleased to be able to provide not just financial support but also technical advice on building a consultation strategy, preparing consultation materials with key messages, ensuring effective reporting on consultation findings and their use to revise the national processes – whether an Ocean Policy, network of marine protected areas or national marine spatial plan or all three.

Peer-to-peer learning about Marine Spatial Planning in the Pacific

IUCN multiplied the value of work being done by these countries by facilitating a regional peer-to-peer learning workshop in Fiji on Marine Spatial Planning (MSP). For the first time in the Pacific Islands, 80 high-level technicians working on MSP in ten countries were able to honestly and openly discuss problems, share lessons and talk about solutions they found to the mutual challenge of implementing MSP in their countries. The workshop also helped finalise an MSP Toolkit specifically designed for use in the Pacific.



Marine Spatial Planning Regional Workshop, Fiji
Credit: IUCN Oceania

PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY HOTSPOTS

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a global programme that provides grants to civil society and private sector partners to protect critical ecosystems in 36 global biological hotspots. IUCN Oceania is the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for CEPF's investment in the East Melanesian Islands (EMI) biodiversity hotspot, which covers Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the Bismarck islands of Papua New Guinea. An investment of USD \$9 million was committed in 2013 for a period of 8 years.

IUCN is converting the investment into a cohesive portfolio of grants, in line with the CEPF strategy informed by the East Melanesian Islands Ecosystem Profile. Since the start of the programme, 42 large grants and 42 small grants (with a total value of USD\$5.2 million) have been awarded.

New grants contracted

Fifteen new grants were contracted in 2018, with a combined total of just under USD \$1 million. In line with the CEPF strategy, these grants focus on the following areas of work: empowering local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity underserved by current conservation efforts; integrating biodiversity conservation into local land use and development planning; safeguarding priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps; and increasing local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalysing civil society partnerships.

IMPROVING SPECIES' KNOWLEDGE

Increased knowledge on priority bat species

The Vanuatu Environmental Science Society undertook a month long expedition to the Banks Islands, Vanuatu and Temotu provinces in the Solomon Islands, in search of threatened species of bats. The team were successful in finding both the Banks Flying Fox and the Vanikoro Flying Fox. Data was gathered and is being used to develop management plans with local communities in order to safeguard these animals.

In the Solomon Islands, as part of a University of Queensland project and as a result of scientific survey work in collaboration with local community members, tools were developed to guide the management of threatened monkey faced bats, the Makira flying-fox and the ngali nut harvest. These species recovery and management plans will be used by communities in order to protect and conserve these species. Informational flyers were also produced to promote measures to reduce impacts on threatened flying-foxes from logging.

Improved IUCN Red List status of bat species

Pteralopex taki – the New Georgia monkey-faced bat - was listed as Endangered in 2012, but as a result of work carried out by the University of Queensland and partners, its 2018 listing is now at Vulnerable. This is largely due to an increase to its known range as a result of new sightings and data from Marovo and Kolombangara. Likewise, *Pteropus cognatus*, the Makira flying fox is now listed as Vulnerable due to improved information and a larger range than previously known in 2012 when it was listed as Endangered.



Banks Flying Fox, Vanuatu
Credit: Tyrone Lavery

Mt Tabwemasana registered as a Community Conservation Area

The Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation, together with Live and Learn Vanuatu and the community of Kerepua, officially announced the Mount Tabwemasana Area as a legally recognized Conservation Area under Part 4 of the EPC Act CAP 283 on 6th June 2018. The area is the biggest registered conservation area in Vanuatu (4,959 hectares), and is one of six Registered Conservation Areas in the country.

BIODIVERSITY AND PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme is a € 60 million initiative of the European Union (EU) and the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States (2017-2023). It is implemented through IUCN and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (EC-JRC). The programme focuses on the 79 ACP countries, which contain a significant proportion of our planet's biodiversity.

In the Pacific, BIOPAMA is implemented by ORO in partnership with EC-JRC and SPREP. The regional focus of the programme is supporting partners and communities to improve the effectiveness and livelihood benefits of marine and terrestrial protected and conserved areas.

This will be achieved by implementing activities under four main areas:

- Delivering grants to regional partners (ranging from €50,000 to € 400,000)
- Developing a protected area resource-hub through the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (hosted by SPREP)
- Producing a comprehensive regional state of protected and conserved areas report
- Capacity building activities for communities and protected area practitioners focused on priority needs

Regional inception workshop

The BIOPAMA Pacific Regional Inception Workshop was held in Apia, Samoa in June 2018, jointly hosted with the Samoa Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment. Nearly 100 stakeholders from government, NGOs and academia came together to launch the second phase of the BIOPAMA programme in the Pacific region. Notable attendees included Afiogi Taefu Lemi Taefu, Honourable Associate Minister for Natural Resources and Environment, Government of Samoa, and Mr Edmund Jackson, the ACP Secretariat representative. The workshop updated stakeholders on the new phase of the programme and discussed priorities for protected and conserved areas. It also showcased achievements and lessons learnt from case-studies in the Cook Islands, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

Review of protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments

IUCN in cooperation with EC-JRC are conducting a review of protected area management effectiveness assessments in the region. This information will support the programme through the following outputs:

- Report that outlines the key findings of these evaluations (at the country and regional level) and provides recommendations for future PAME implementation.
- Inform the development of PAME webpages and data on the PIPAP
- Feed into the State of Protected Areas report as a chapter focused on PAME assessments
- Guide investment priorities for the grant facility
- Development of capacity building activities



BIOPAMA Regional Inception Workshop, Samoa
Credit: IUCN Oceania



When we protect, sustainably manage, and restore ecosystems, we also address a range of societal challenges, simultaneously providing human well-being, livelihoods, resilience and biodiversity benefits.

In the Pacific Islands, ecosystem-based approaches to climate adaptation and disaster risk reduction can greatly contribute to increasing the resilience of communities in the face of climate change impacts, such as mangroves reducing the impact of cyclones and storm surges.

IUCN Oceania supports governments, members and communities to increase the role of nature based solutions in climate change adaptation and coastal ecosystems management.

WATER AND WETLANDS

Through its Water and Wetlands Programme, IUCN Oceania aims to increase the resilience of coastal communities and ecosystems to cope with and adapt to the impacts from climate change and other environmental threats.

Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction

In March 2018 IUCN hosted the Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction workshop in Suva, Fiji. Co-hosted by the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM), and Mangroves for the Future (MFF), at the workshop focused on opportunities for moving beyond pilot initiatives and scaling up mangrove conservation and restoration.

Fiji's Permanent Representative to the United Nations (UN), Ambassador Peter Thompson, who is also serving as the UN Special Envoy for Oceans, opened the event with a story about his childhood in Nasese Creek's mangrove forests (which have since been cleared for urban development) and a call to immediate action.

During the workshop participants – including the governments of Fiji, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu – had the opportunity to exchange knowledge and their own experiences in mangrove conservation and restoration. Valuable lessons learned and approaches were also shared from the IUCN Asia Mangroves for the Future (MFF) programme, a large scale initiative on mangrove restoration that was established across 11 countries in the Asia region following the 2004 Boxing Day tsunami.

Global Mangrove Initiative

IUCN Oceania commemorated the one year anniversary of the launching of the Global Mangrove initiative in Fiji with partners Conservation International and World Wildlife Fund. With a mangrove and coastal tree planting event, in collaboration with Ministry of Forestry and the University of the South Pacific's South Pacific Regional Herbarium, the event was to encourage the Suva community to protect and replant mangroves and coastal trees as a means to protect community livelihoods from the effects of climate change and natural disasters.

Ramsar

The International Convention on Wetlands, called the Ramsar Convention, is the intergovernmental treaty that provides the framework for the conservation and wise use of wetlands and their resources. IUCN Oceania hosts the RAMSAR Secretariat for the Pacific Islands region.

CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND RISK REDUCTION

The Climate Change Mitigation & Risk Reduction (CCMRR) Programme focuses on helping Pacific Island Countries build resilience to climate change by:

- Safeguarding biodiversity
- Positioning nature conservation at the core of meeting socio-economic and environmental needs
- Integrating sustainable energy systems into developing new and expanded livelihoods

CCMRR aims to accelerate the transition to ecologically sustainable, efficient, and socially equitable practices by instilling in others the value of ecosystems and nature-based solutions in human development activities. This is done through demonstration projects, knowledge products and tools, and supporting environmentally sound policies and practices.

In 2018 CCMRR delivered two key projects:

Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (EESLI)

The EESLI programme works with the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu. Funded by Italy, Austria, Luxembourg and Spain, EESLI supports government-led initiatives, a Small Grants programme for CSOs and SMEs, and a Special Initiatives programme to support climate change mitigation and risk reduction measures by IUCN partners and members.

The EESLI goal is to accelerate the transition to energy systems that are ecologically efficient, sustainable, and socially equitable. Projects in 2018 with, or in consultation with, national governments have included:

Developing a low carbon policy in Samoa

The Samoa Low Carbon Policy Framework (LCPF) and UNFCCC Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA) was completed with a low carbon policy document available for Samoa. An Energy Mapping system is also in place as a result of the finalisation of the Samoa Energy Map. Towards the end of 2018 a technical workshop was executed successfully with local stakeholders on analysing and capitalising project experiences from the energy sector. This was a precursor workshop to a regional workshop to be undertaken in 2019 on the same subject.



Mangrove Ecosystem for Climate Change Adaptation & Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop, Fiji
Credit: IUCN Oceania

Bringing the light back in Tonga

The rehabilitation for the solar systems in Moungaone, Mango and Lofanga for Haapai, Tonga that were damaged during Cyclone Ian in 2014, together with a disposal mechanism for used solar batteries, is at the procurement stage. The project is being executed by the Tonga Department of Energy.

Improving energy efficiency in Marshal Islands

A Waste Oil Management Guideline for the Republic of the Marshall Islands was developed (in close coordination with SPREP) for the RMI national electricity utility, Marshalls Energy Company. Majuro and Ebeye also saw improvement in the energy efficiency of public street lighting through the continued use of high efficiency LED streetlights.

Introducing an energy loan scheme in Palau

The Palau Development Bank Energy Efficiency Subsidy Project involves the National Development Bank of Palau including an Energy Loan Scheme as part of its normal lending activities. A national household energy survey was also conducted, including a sample size of over 500 households in Koror and Airai states, surveyed by over 20 newly trained enumerators. A thorough analysis of the impacts of the energy loan programme in Palau is intended to provide informed policy advice to contribute to efficient resource use, energy sector planning, and good governance.

Progressing energy loans in Tuvalu

The Renewable Energy Revolving Fund in Tuvalu continues to be operated by the Tuvalu Development Bank. A total of two loans were reported for 2018 and discussion has started with the General Manager on how the programme can be made more attractive to clients of the Bank.

EESLI Small Grants

The EESLI Small Grants projects contribute to the increased use of renewable energy technologies alongside biodiversity safeguards, and saw significant progress in 2018. Small Grants awarded in 2016 have projected emissions mitigation of over 77 tonnes of CO₂, impacting hundreds of men, women, and children in communities across three countries of Oceania, and Small Grants awarded in 2017 are reaching communities in five more nations.

Installing solar in Tuvalu

The Ekalesia Kelisiano (Tuvalu) project aims to install a solar photovoltaic system and engage its congregation in climate change awareness and safeguarding the surrounding ecosystem through education programmes and biodiversity-oriented ministry. The installation and on-site commissioning by technicians at TEC (who were trained under the GEFPAS Low Carbon Islands project) will follow the successful delivery of all equipment to the site.



Installing solar in Pusija, Solomon Islands
Credit: CCMRR Programme/IUCN Oceania





Safeguarding ecosystems in Vanuatu

The Human Capacity Development International (Vanuatu) project has installed solar photovoltaic household kits to support livelihoods of 57 households in Penoru Village and Conservation Area, aiding in safeguarding the surrounding ecosystem from degradation through other industry and unsustainable commercial development. IUCN is quantifying the emissions mitigated through project activities.

Providing pico-hydro power systems in PNG

The Research & Conservation Foundation (RCF) project included the installation of two pico-hydro power systems to support sustainability of livelihoods in two coffee-producing communities in the Crater Mountain Wildlife Management Area, PNG. The installation of the pico-hydro systems is underway, with two additional project officers appointed by RCF to oversee the site selection and installation.

Promoting traditional sailing practices in Fiji

The Sailing for Sustainability S4S (Fiji) project includes the promotion of traditional seafaring, navigation and shipbuilding practices for youth in the Greater Suva area, using both theory and practice aboard the drua (a traditional sailing canoe) the / *Vola Siga Vou*. 72 students completed the Drua Training Course and received their certificates at a graduation ceremony, and an additional 41 students completed the training in the second half of 2018.

Providing power to the people of Pusija

The Sirubai Voko Tribe Association (Solomon Islands) project includes co-financing the Pusiju Village community hall, being constructed with funds raised through a community copra buying collective, and through provision of a solar photovoltaic system in order to provide extended hours for traditional livelihood activities and studies without reliance on imported fuels or associated emissions.

Installing solar in the Solomon Islands

The Superfly Ltd (Solomon Islands) project includes the installation of a model solar photovoltaic systems at three selected Solomon Islands Association of Rural Training Centres facilities and the establishment of micro-enterprise activities to create sustainable livelihoods utilising the increased energy access. The PV system for Kaotava Rural Training Centre in Guadalcanal now has a powered classroom so that teachers can do night-time classes, preparations, printing and laptop charging. The system also doubles as a demonstration training system for the electrical students. The third training session at Batuna RTC in Marovo also took place.

Distributing solar home systems for Kundiawa

The Voice of Yongos aims to support livelihoods of 450 households in Kundiawa Village, to aid in safeguarding the surrounding ecosystem from degradation, and to support the concurrent reforestation efforts in the associated conservation area. The final disbursement of funds has been made to purchase 80 solar home systems and installation of each batch of systems will enable the relevant emission mitigation calculations to be made.

Mainstreaming energy efficient standards in Guam

The Federated States of Micronesia's (FSM) Home Efficiency Loan Programme (HELP), managed and implemented by the FSM Development Bank in the state of Pohnpei, in partnership with the commercial banking sector, has led to the mainstreaming of energy efficiency standards in the housing market. A partnership with the Bank of Guam has also opened a new financing pipeline of an additional USD\$5 million, with 17 approved projects already completed or underway.

Studying the tides of Tonga

The Tonga Tidal Study aimed to provide science based policy advice to the Tongan Government on the feasibility of producing power from the Vava'u tidal inlet. The Auckland University of Technology undertook the tidal assessment in Ha'apai and Vava'u and concluded that there is insufficient evidence to warrant further work on a tidal energy facility and that developing the tidal energy potential might have other undesirable environmental side effects.

GEFPAS Low Carbon Island

After 5 years of supporting renewable energy and energy efficiency in Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu, supported by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility, the Low Carbon Island (LCI) project came to an end in 2018. Through the energy efficiency mechanisms delivered in the form of each nation's Low Carbon Fund, lifetime energy savings are estimated to total 699,786,000,000MJ, with direct GHG emissions of 12.86t CO₂eq, direct post-project GHG emissions of 128.62t CO₂eq, and indirect GHG emissions of 1,032.48t CO₂eq all avoided.

Through the renewable energy installations made under LCI, the UNEP methodology estimated lifetime energy production of the solar PV systems will total 192.72MWh. This is estimated to result in lifetime direct GHG emissions of 1,541.47t CO₂eq, direct post-project GHG emissions of 13,875.84t CO₂eq, and indirect GHG emissions of 46,252.8t CO₂eq avoided.

Investment by the private sector through the Low Carbon Funds was more than 10% of the total project budget



Drua Training Course, Fiji
Credit: CCMRR Programme/IUCN Oceania





A fisherman in Alotau, PNG
Credit: PNG Department of National Planning and Monitoring

In Oceania, millions of people are directly dependent upon nature's bounties for their daily food, housing and medicine. Good environmental governance will ensure the environment continues to provide goods and services for the prosperity of human societies. Sharing power, responsibility and benefits in natural resource management, as well as strengthening governance arrangements including legal entitlements, making decisions more transparent, inclusive and equitable, are good for both people and biodiversity.

IUCN Oceania supports governments, members and communities to improve the effective and equitable governance of the natural resources that underpin their shared prosperity.

IUCN PACIFIC CENTRE FOR ENVIRONMENT GOVERNANCE

The IUCN Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance (PCEG) brings together IUCN's work on environmental law, leadership for green growth, natural resource economics and environment and social policy. Using a rights based, multi-disciplinary approach it aims to promote, facilitate and support the development and growth of environmental governance throughout the Pacific.

- providing world class advice and technical support to Pacific Island leaders and decision makers (utilising the IUCN global network of experts)
- hosting Talanoa based discussions on key issues and opportunities
- initiating and implementing projects
- providing services to IUCN Oceania programmes

Emerging Pacific Leader in Environmental Law

IUCN Oceania is very proud to note that our Senior Environmental Legal Officer, Maria Goreti Muavesi, was the recipient of an Australia Award, a prestigious international scholarship and fellowship offering the next generation of global leaders an opportunity to undertake study, research and professional development in Australia. Supported by the Australia Award, in 2018 Maria graduated from the University of Wollongong with a Master of Fisheries Policy with Distinction, undertaken through the University's Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security (ANCORS).

Maria, who hails from the village of Batiri in Macuata, Fiji, was also selected for the 2019 Australia Awards Women Leadership Initiative and Mentoring Program. The Initiative aims to provide Women Leaders from the Pacific Region with skills that will assist them in supporting the regions work towards sustainable development.

Legal Frameworks for Protected Areas

Protected areas in Pacific Island Countries and Territories are often characterized by limited or weak legal and policy frameworks. Despite this challenge, countries are taking steps to institute legal frameworks to support their protected areas, with an understanding of the high importance of ensuring these legal frameworks fully consider the need to support land and marine tenure and livelihoods.

Developing a national framework for protected areas in Fiji

Working with the Government of Fiji and key stakeholders, and supported by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO), IUCN produced The Fiji National Framework and Strategic Actions for Developing a National System of (Terrestrial) Protected Areas. This brought together existing legal and policy arrangements that relate to terrestrial protected area development and identified where further work was needed e.g. new or revised legislation, new policies and/or strategies. The framework provided recommendations based on the reviews and consultations of key strategic actions to

support development of the national system of terrestrial protected areas and options of institutional arrangements to strengthen existing protected areas management and governance. Other outputs included raising awareness and dialogue with relevant stakeholders on protected areas policies and institutional issues, as well as the development of draft protected areas categories for Fiji.

Combined with the IUCN Oceania Marine programme support to the Government of Fiji in the development of Fiji's Marine Protected Areas, the development of a terrestrial protected areas framework also provides the foundation for developing a legal and policy framework to guide Government in placing appropriate legal, policy and institutional arrangements when establishing a national system of terrestrial protected areas, covering both terrestrial and marine.



Ensuring resilient ecosystems and representative protected areas in the Solomon Islands (EREPA)

The Government of the Solomon Islands is partnering with IUCN, SPREP and other stakeholders to advance its work on protected areas governance, management and effectiveness. Funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) a key focus of the EREPA project is the environmental quality and the livelihood benefits for communities within and neighbouring protected areas.

In 2018 workshops and consultations were held to provide input into the development of the project, including field trips undertaken to communities in provinces, and the project proper will begin in 2019.

Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness in Vanuatu (ECARE)

The Government of the Vanuatu is partnering with IUCN and other stakeholders to advance its work on protected areas governance, management and effectiveness. Funded through the Global Environment Facility (GEF), as well as developing a legal differentiated and overarching framework for protected areas in Vanuatu, the ECARE project aims to improve capacity at decentralised and traditional governance levels, and will also focus on improving the financial sustainability of Vanuatu's protected areas.

In 2018 workshops and consultations were held to provide input into the development of the project, including field trips undertaken to communities in provinces, and the project proper will begin in 2019.

Oceania Planetary Health Forum

Building on the Healthy Islands ideal first advanced in Oceania more than 20 years ago, the inaugural Oceania Planetary Health Forum was held in November 2018 in Fiji. The concept of 'planetary health' concerns the health of human civilisation and the state of the natural systems on which it depends. It is particularly relevant in understanding, and urgently responding to, health impacts resulting from environmental degradation and climate change.

The forum brought together organisational leaders, subject matter experts, practitioners and researchers in both public health and the environment and ecology, from the Oceania region and beyond, intent on reviewing and discussing recent developments in these fields and identify priority actions for the region.

Convened by IUCN, the Pacific Community (SPC), Edith Cowan University and the University of Sydney, with funding support from the University of Sydney, Edith Cowan University, Australian Government, United Nations Development Program and the Wellcome Trust, the main objectives of the forum were to:

- develop an Oceania regional research framework for planetary health;
- build on existing foundations and collaborations, to establish an Oceania Planetary Health network;
- document case studies of Oceania planetary health good practice; and
- produce a communiqué for global policy dialogue.



IUCN Oceania Regional Programme Coordinator Andrew Foran at the opening of the Oceania Planetary Health Forum, Fiji
Credit: IUCN Oceania

CELEBRATING 7 DECADES OF CONSERVATION

“2018 marked a significant milestone for IUCN as we celebrated our 70th anniversary around the world. While we take pride in seven decades of achievements, this year also allowed us to acknowledge that our ideas are still young, vibrant, and continue to shape international conservation - which is critical to tackle the environmental challenges facing the globe” ~ Inger Andersen, IUCN Director General



Our Commissions

IUCN's six Commissions unite 10,000 volunteer experts from a range of disciplines. They assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with sound know-how and policy advice on conservation issues.



Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)

One of IUCN's six scientific Commissions. CEM is a network of volunteer experts, numbering 1,000, from around the world working on ecosystem management related issues, for example climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, Red List of Ecosystems, fisheries and ecosystem restoration and services. The Commission works closely with other IUCN Commissions, regional offices and global thematic programmes.

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

An inter-disciplinary network of professionals whose mission is to act as a source of advice on the environmental, economic, social and cultural factors that affect natural resources and biological diversity and to provide guidance and support towards effective policies and practices in environmental conservation and sustainable development.

World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

A network of environmental law and policy experts from all regions of the world who volunteer their knowledge and services to IUCN activities, especially to those of the IUCN Law Programme. WCEL functions as an integral part of the IUCN Environmental Law Programme, which includes the Commission and the Environmental Law Centre.

Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)

CEC is a network driving change for sustainability. More than 1,000 members volunteer their professional expertise in learning, knowledge management and strategic communication to achieve IUCN goals.

Species Survival Commission (SSC)

A science-based network of more than 7,500 volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together towards achieving the vision of, "A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth".

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

The world's premier network of protected area expertise. It is administered by IUCN's Global Programme on Protected Areas and has over 1,700 members, spanning 140 countries.

WCPA works by helping governments and others plan protected areas and integrate them into all sectors; by providing strategic advice to policy makers; by strengthening capacity and investment in protected areas; and by convening the diverse constituency of protected area stakeholders to address challenging issues. For more than 50 years, IUCN and WCPA have been at the forefront of global action on protected areas.

Our Partners and Donors

IUCN Oceania Regional Office acknowledges the support of a large network of partners who help fund its activities, implement the IUCN Programme and offer expertise to support the Union's work.

This work is made possible through the generous contributions of a growing number of donors and partners, including governments, multilateral institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations and companies.



Our Staff



ANDREW FORAN
Regional Programme
Coordinator and PCEG
Coordinator



ANDREW IRVIN
Climate Change
Mitigation and Risk
Reduction Programme
Officer



ANJANI GOSAI
Senior Project
Accountant



CLEA FARROW
Protected Areas Officer,
BIOPAMA



EPELI NAKAUTOGA
Communications Officer



ETIKA QICA
Regional Project Officer



EVIA TAVANAVANUA
PA to the Regional
Director



FIPEC TUITUBOU
Programme Support
Officer



HANS WENDT
MACBIO Technical
Officer



HELEN PIPPARD
CEPF Project Manager



IFEREIMI DAU
Climate Change
Mitigation and Risk
Reduction Programme
Officer



JIGNASHA HANSJI
Human Resources
Officer



KATE DAVEY
MACBIO Project Officer



LEANNE FERNANDES
Marine Programme
Coordinator



LILIAN SAUNI
Water and Wetlands
Programme Coordinator



LILIANA RAKANACE
Receptionist



**LUISA TAGICAKIBAU-
MOCE**
Team Leader
Administration - CEPF



MARIA MUAVESI
Senior Environmental
Legal Officer



MARIAN GAUNA
MACBIO Project
Support Officer



MARIKA TUIWAINUNU
Gardening Support Staff/
Handyman



MASON SMITH
Regional Director



MEREWALESI HO
Finance Associate



MILIAME KOMAITAI
Office Janitor



NAUSHAD YAKUB
MACBIO Project Liaison
Officer - Fiji



NAWAIA MATIA
ICT Officer



PAUL VAN NIMWEGEN
Protected Areas
Coordinator, BIOPAMA



PAULA KATIREWA
Climate Change Mitigation
Programme Coordinator



SARAH TAWAKA
Executive and
Membership Officer



SAVENACA KALOKALO
Protocol Driver



SEMISI TAWAKE
Regional Head of Finance
and Administration



SEREANA NARAYAN
Communications Assistant



SEREANA TUKANA
Office Janitor



SERUWAIA QIMAQIMA
Travel and Procurement
Officer



**SOLOGO
KHURELBAATAR**
RAMSAR Regional Officer



VAREA ROMANU
Climate Change Mitigation
and Risk Reduction
Programme Assistant

In-country Staff



LILIETA TAKAU
MACBIO Liaison Officer
(Tonga)



LYSA WINI-SIMEON
MACBIO Liaison Officer
(Solomon Islands)



VATU MOLISA
MACBIO/CEPF Liaison
Officer (Vanuatu)



ZOLA SANGGA
CEPF National Country
Coordinator (PNG)



FIONA RODIE
CEPF National Country
Coordinator
(Solomon Islands)

Interns



AMRIT RAEEWAL
Research Intern - PCEG



JESSICA BALLARD
Research Intern - PCEG



LILY ZAY
Climate Change Mitigation
and Risk Reduction
Programme Intern



KELBYANN MCKENZIE
Climate Change Mitigation
and Risk Reduction
Programme Intern

Acronyms

ACP	African, Caribbean, and Pacific Group of States	GHG	Greenhouse Gas
ANCORS	Australian National Centre for Ocean Resources and Security	GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme	GLISPA	Global Island Partnership
BMU	Bundesministerium für Umwelt	HELP	Home Energy Loan Programme
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
CCMRR	Climate Change Mitigation and Risk Reduction	LCI	Low Carbon Island
CEC	Commission on Education and Communication	MACBIO	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries
CEESP	Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy	MFF	Mangroves for the Future
CEM	Commission on Ecosystem Management	MSP	Marine Spatial Planning
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	NAMA	National Appropriate Mitigation Actions
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	NbS	Nature-based Solutions
CSOs	Civil Society Organisations	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
ECARE	Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
EC-JRC	European Commission's Joint Research Centre	ORO	Oceania Regional Office
EESLI	Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative	PAME	Protected Area Management Effectiveness
ELSP	Energy Loan Subsidy Programme	PNG	Papua New Guinea
EREPA	Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas	RCF	Research and Conservation Foundation
EU	European Union	RIT	Regional Implementation Team
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation	RTC	Rural Training Centre
FFA	Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency	SMEs	Small Medium (or Micro) Enterprises
FSM	Federated States of Micronesia	SPC	Pacific Community
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
GEFPAS	GEF Pacific Alliance for Sustainability	SSC	Species Survival Commission
		SUMA	Special Unique Marine Areas
		TEC	The Ekalesia Kelisiano
		UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
		UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
		WCEL	World Commission on Environmental Law
		WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas

The designation of geographical entities in this report, and the presentation of the material, do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of IUCN or other participating organisations, concerning the legal status of any country, territory, or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Published by:

IUCN Oceania Regional Office, Fiji

Copyright:

© 2019 IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources

Reproduction of this publication for educational or other non-commercial purposes is authorised without prior written permission from the copyright holder provided the source is fully acknowledged.

Reproduction of this publication for resale or other commercial purposes is prohibited without prior written permission of the copyright holder.

Photo credits:

Inside Front Cover: © Tyrone Lavery

Layout and Design:

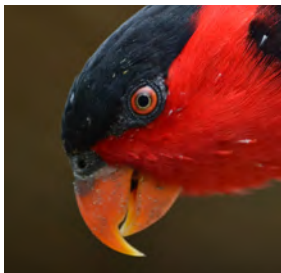
IUCN Oceania Regional Office

Available from:

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature
Oceania Regional Office
5 Ma'afu St
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji
Tel +679 3319 084
Fax +679 3100 128
www.iucn.org/oceania
www.iucn.org/resources/publications



working for
a just world
that values and
conserves nature



INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

OCEANIA REGIONAL OFFICE
5 Ma'afu Street
Private Mail Bag
Suva, Fiji
oceania@iucn.org
Tel +679 331 9084
Fax +679 310 0128
www.iucn.org/oceania

twitter.com/IUCN_Oceania
facebook.com/iucn.oceania