



INTERNATIONAL UNION
FOR CONSERVATION
OF NATURE

**OCEANIA
REGIONAL OFFICE
ANNUAL REPORT 2019**



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Foreword



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mason Smith', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mason Smith
Regional Director

Bula vinaka and welcome to the 2019 IUCN Oceania Regional Office (ORO) annual report. It is my pleasure to summarize our many achievements in what can only be described as a very successful year for IUCN ORO.

The IUCN Oceania Marine Programme continued its fantastic work in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu, assisting the countries in their marine spatial plans for the sustainable management of their marine resources. These efforts should be completed by 2021 and with interest shown by other regional countries, the Marine Programme should be able to extend its assistance to these countries in the not too distant future.

Phase 2 of the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Programme (BIOPAMA) continued in 2019 with four focus areas targeting all countries in the region. These include in-country training and support on a range of protected areas tools and practices, the implementation of a grant facility, the finalization of the State of Protected and Conserved Area report for Oceania and working with SPREP to develop a regional protected areas resource and data hub.

The IUCN ORO Regional Implementation Team (RIT) of the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) continued its vital task of building capacity and providing grants to civil society and private sector partners in the East Melanesian Biodiversity Hotspot of Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and the Bismarck Islands of Papua New Guinea in an ongoing effort to protect critical ecosystems. From the start of the programme in mid-2013 to the end of 2019, 48 large grants and 44 small grants have been awarded, for a total of USD 5,996,243 in grants allocated by CEPF to East Melanesia.

The IUCN ORO Climate Change Programme continued to assist countries build resilience to climate change and implemented two major projects in 2019. These were the long running Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihood Initiative (EESLI) and the new Plastic Waste-Free Islands project.

The IUCN Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance (PCEG) continued to support ORO's current projects with legal advice and undertook reviews of a number of important regional and national environmental and climate change policies.

Other projects undertaken by IUCN ORO in 2019 that are worthy of mention include the workshops on the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) held in Fiji and Tonga, drafting of Fiji's Terrestrial Protected Areas National Framework, and assisting Fiji in drafting a management plan for the RAMSAR-listed Upper Navua Conservation Area (UNCA).

IUCN membership continued to grow and it is pleasing to note that membership in the region totalled 55 in 2019. This included 9 state members, 31 NGO members, 11 Government Agencies, one International NGO, one Indigenous Peoples Organization and two Affiliate members. In 2020, we look forward to welcoming Kiribati as a new state member.



Perhaps the highlight of 2019 was the hosting of the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum in July at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) conference centre. The meeting saw our Regional Councillors, Commission members, State and non-State members, Australian Committee for IUCN, New Zealand Committee for IUCN, staff from ORO, ARO and HQ plus other stakeholders gather to review our work and plan for 2021–2024. My thanks and appreciation goes to Dame Meg Taylor the Secretary General of PIFS and her team for allowing IUCN the use of the facilities and to the ORO team for planning and hosting a very successful forum. A big vinaka valalevu to all those that attended and contributed to the outcomes of the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum.

As part of our portfolio development and support for the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, ORO developed GEF 6 proposals that target improving protected areas governance, management, effectiveness and benefits for local communities. Building on workshops, consultations and field trips undertaken in 2018, in 2019 the final project documents for “Ensuring Resilient Ecosystems and Representative Protected Areas in the Solomon Islands (EREPA)” and for “Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness in Vanuatu (ECARE)” were developed and submitted to the GEF, with the projects proper beginning in 2020. A GCF proposal with IUCN ORO in partnership with SPREP, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and the Solomon Islands – the Melanesian Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Resilience Programme (M-CMERP) was socialized with the GCF in 2019 with a Project Preparation Fund to begin in 2020 for ORO to prepare a full project proposal.

In 2019, we said farewell to Dr Leanne Fernandez (Marine Programme Coordinator) and Kate Davey (Senior Marine Project Officer), both of whom returned home to Australia. On behalf of the IUCN ORO family, I would like to thank them both for their years

of dedicated and professional service to IUCN and the many countries they worked with, and I hope that they take back fond memories of their time in Fiji and Oceania. We also said farewell to Andrew Irvin, Sereana Narayan and Lysa Wini-Simeon from the Solomon Islands. We thank them for their contribution to ORO and wish them all the very best in their future endeavours.

We also welcomed new staff. Alisi Rabukawaqa (Project Liaison Officer), Chinnamma Reddy (Marine Project Officer) and John Kaitu'u (GIS Officer) joined the marine team. Our finance and administration team was strengthened when Ananta Singh (Junior Accountant Projects) and Shylene Prasad (Finance Associate) joined the team. Ravin Dhari joined as CEPF national country coordinator based in the Solomon Islands. Ken Kassem also joined ORO as the Strategic Partnership Officer. On behalf of the IUCN ORO family, I welcome them and look forward to working closely with them.

Looking ahead, ORO will increase its regional engagement, working with SPREP and other stakeholders as we plan for the PIRT 10th Nature Conference in Noumea, New Caledonia. Likewise, preparations will be made for ORO's active participation at the upcoming World Conservation Congress.

Allow me to conclude this foreword by expressing my sincere appreciation and a big vinaka vakalevu to all ORO staff, IUCN Members and Commissions including all our government, CSO, and community partners for their efforts and partnership in 2019. I look forward to working with you all in 2020 as we strive to sustainably manage nature's resources for the benefit of Oceania's environment and its peoples.

Together, let's value and conserve nature

IUCN Councillors' Remarks



Peter Cochrane
Ana Tiraa
Andrew Bignell

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

We extend our warmest welcome to the IUCN family and new State member, Kiribati!

2019 marked another significant year for IUCN and IUCN Members in Oceania. Climate change, and the impacts of intensifying weather systems and sea level rise were a very high priority for Pacific Island nations, as they sought more urgent and effective global action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The August meeting of the Pacific Island Forum leaders issued the Kainiki II Declaration – the strongest statement the region has ever issued. The Oceania Regional Office continued to be actively involved in proposing and delivering, in partnership with other organisations, government agencies and donors, a range of climate-related activities, including mitigation and adaptation responses, ecosystem and community resilience building, Nature-based Solutions, blue economy projects and improved governance.

The Oceania Regional Conservation Forum in July in Suva was a great success, with a strong presence from Members, excellent presentations and discussions together with the very welcome participation of the Acting Director General of IUCN, Grethel Aguilar.

A major focus of the year for the Bureau, Council, Regional Offices and IUCN staff globally has been preparing for the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2020, scheduled to be held in June in Marseilles, but postponed to January 2021 following the global response to COVID-19 and the closing of national borders in 2020. A huge amount of work has been devoted online by IUCN Members to drafting and then debating over one hundred motions for consideration at the Congress. Another major piece of work by Council and IUCN staff, with extensive input from members, has been the preparation of the draft IUCN Programme 2021–24. There remains some uncertainty about whether some of this work can be progressed online or await the opportunity for face to face debate at the Congress next year. The four-yearly governance review of IUCN set out a number of areas for improvement for Council's consideration, and IUCN Council debated these carefully before finalising its response and recommendations for change, including amendments to IUCN Statutes that will be debated at the Members Assembly, if not before.

We give our deep thanks to the ORO team and the very able leadership of Mason Smith for their input, advice and support for Members and for our work as Councillors elected from Oceania. We would also like to congratulate the ORO team in successfully securing the first Green Climate Fund support for IUCN Oceania under the Project Preparation Facility (PPF).



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 1,400 Member organisations and the input of some 15,000 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 one of the only two environmental organisations 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 of Wild Fauna and Flora (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 and commercial developments and invasive species are increasing the rate of biodiversity loss in many countries.

Australia and New Zealand lead the region's

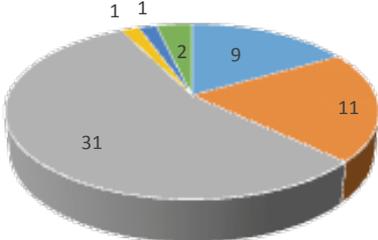
economic development, and have solid capacity in the environmental management of development. The countries and territories of the Pacific Islands have also been continually developing and improving their environmental governance and policies. IUCN often acts as a broker for the environment, encouraging 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 2019, there were 55 Members based in the Oceania region, representing about 4% of global IUCN membership. This included 9 state members, 31 NGO members, 11 Government Agencies, one International NGO, one indigenous peoples organisation and two Affiliate members.

<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, Climate Change, Disaster Management 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>

55 IUCN Members in Oceania



- States
- Gov. Agencies
- National NGO
- International NGO
- Indigenous Peoples' org.
- Affiliates



Monuriki, 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.

MARINE PROGRAMME

The IUCN Oceania Marine Programme continues to work closely with Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu to support their efforts to sustainably manage their Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ), on average a vast 98% of their countries. With the closing of the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) project, funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU), the Oceans 5 international philanthropic organization and the European Union – Pacific European Union Marine Partnership Programme (EU-PEUMP) have continued the support in these countries. In addition, 2019 also began with a new MSP project in Samoa with funding from the EU through the Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) initiative for climate adaptation and resilience. IUCN support for Pacific Island nations in their national marine spatial planning efforts has included collation, assessment, refinement and delivery of hundreds of marine spatial datasets including open source datasets. The open-source data sets have been compiled into four national interactive and e-atlases and associated downloadable datasets with metadata. Draft, national-scale marine spatial plans for Fiji and Tonga are now being subject to national consultations, and in Vanuatu and Solomon Islands, initial national consultations have been completed that will lead to national Marine Spatial Plans in 2020.

A first zero draft map to help transform ocean management

A key achievement in 2019 was the development of a zero draft MSP map for Tonga which included at least 20% of every marine bioregion (ensuring a completely ecologically representative network of MPAs) and including 30% MPAs overall. This was a very technical analysis to spatially prioritise and allocate areas within the marine environment in a network of marine protected areas (MPAs). With significant review from national experts and the Tonga Ocean7 committee through a technical workshop held in-country, the zero draft MSP map was finalized with at least 30% MPAs achieved overall; 3 of 4 reef-associated marine bioregions and 12 of 21 deepwater bioregions achieved 20% protection. Of the deepwater bioregions, only four had less than 10% MPAs. The next steps are for the Tonga Ocean7 Committee to present the draft map to Cabinet which will be the basis for the second round of national consultations in 2020. Simultaneously, the Kingdom of Tonga is also finalising an 'Ocean Planning and Management Bill' to provide a framework for planning the use, development, management and protection of the ocean in the Kingdom in the public interest and for related purposes.

Similarly in Fiji, a zero draft map consisting of 30% candidate areas for MPAs offshore and priority sites for the inshore areas was developed. The Fijian Government with support from IUCN are in the process of including national fisheries data into the zero draft map to improve the MPA network design for offshore which Government then would consider for public consultation. In December IUCN and FLMMA convened a working group to review the draft Fiji MPA Consultation Strategy.

Ocean Policy to keep the wheels turning

Following the completion of the Vanuatu Ocean Policy in 2016, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and other countries in the region are following in the same direction. In the case of Solomon Islands, the Government, with technical advice and support from the IUCN, developed the Solomon Islands National Ocean Policy (SINOP) as a strategic roadmap for integrated management and governance of their ocean. There were tremendous contributions from the Solomon Islands Ocean 12 technical committee and local experts within the country to provide the local context. 25 November 2019 marked the official launching of the SINOP by His Royal Highness, Prince Charles of Wales. The SINOP illustrates how the Solomon Islands has translated the fundamental principles of Blue Pacific, endorsed by Pacific leaders in 2017, and the 2010 Pacific Oceanscape framework for sustainable oceans management, into national action for their country. Funding support to develop the SINOP was provided by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) through the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) project and funding support to design and print the SINOP was provided by European Union – Pacific European Union Marine Partnership Programme (EU-PEUMP).



HRH The Prince of Wales, Prince Charles visits the Ocean Planning booth, Solomon Islands
Credit: Solomon Islands Oceans Planning

In addition to being the first country in the region to develop their Ocean Policy in 2016, Vanuatu in 2019 officially launched its initial Ocean Affairs Office, based at the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Complex. For more than five years, IUCN Oceania has continued to provide technical advice to the Vanuatu Government and the Oceans Office team on the development of their marine spatial plan and ocean zones management with their EEZ. The first round of national public consultation is underway in Vanuatu where local communities and villages can provide their input on where and how they would like to see their marine areas protected and sustainably managed.

Samoa joins MSP in the region

IUCN Oceania with funding from the European Union's Global Climate Change Alliance (GCCA+) Initiative, is working in partnership with the Government of Samoa (GoS) to support Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) by implementing a national-scale Marine Spatial Plan (MSP = Ocean Plan) while strengthening community engagement in climate actions. The Project will deliver and implement a marine spatial plan (MSP) with three key outcomes:

1. Capacity building of key staff within GoS and CSOs in collating, preparing and, using biophysical and human-use spatial data. The use of this data will be essential in developing and implementing a MSP and the Project will also build in-country skills in aspects of marine resource planning and management.
2. Develop a marine spatial plan for Samoa. For this it is essential that there is knowledge and understanding of the ecosystem and biophysical characteristics of Samoa's inshore and offshore marine areas. To build on the information that is already known and available, the Project will develop key products that form the basis of the MSP toolbox. These products may include: marine bioregions for Samoa (the framework for developing a represented network of marine protected areas); identify special unique marine areas, and the development of ocean zones and placement guidelines for Samoa's inshore and offshore marine areas.
3. The largest and most significant component of the Project will, over the four-year timeframe, bring together the work of Outcomes 1 and 2. This includes an integrated decision-making process (via marine spatial planning) and effective engagement of local communities to address climate related challenges in the sustainable use of Samoa's ocean.

PROTECTED AND CONSERVED AREAS PROGRAMME

IUCN Oceania is working to improve the effectiveness of protected and conserved areas in Oceania, through the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Programme (BIOPAMA). It is an initiative of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) financed by the European Union's 11th European Development Fund (EDF), jointly implemented by IUCN and the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission (JRC).

Activities are being implemented in four main streams:

- In-country training and support.
- BIOPAMA action component grant facility
- Technical reports and knowledge products
- Development of a regional protected areas resource and data hub (hosted by SPREP)

PNG-SMART Collaboration

The PNG-SMART Collaboration is an innovative partnership that aims to strengthen management effectiveness and governance of conservation areas through adopting the Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) in the country's protected areas (see <https://smartconservationtools.org/>). This system assists conservation areas to easily collect, store and retrieve field data, which then can be used to support evidence based decision-making.

This collaboration kicked-off in November with IUCN leading two-weeks of field training with thirty-five staff members from Tenkile Conservation Alliance (TCA) in the proposed Torricelli Mountain Range Conservation Area – which is home to the Critically Endangered Tenkile and Weimang Tree Kangaroos. The training focused on creating a practical learning environment and working together to adapt the SMART system to the local context, ensuring its benefit to the local communities, including translating it into Tok Pisin.

The SMART-PNG Collaboration is an initiative of the PNG Conservation and Environmental Protection Agency, TCA, TKCP-PNG, BIOPAMA, UNDP and BirdLife International. This collaboration is funded by GEF, European Union and the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS).



Torricelli Mountain Rangers during the BIOPAMA SMART training, PNG. Credit: IUCN/Paul van Nimwegen

Vanuatu Advanced-METT

IUCN Oceania is working with the Vanuatu Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation to develop an adapted management effectiveness assessment tool (based on Advanced METT, see <https://rris.biopama.org/pame/tools>). Assessing protected area performance allows practitioners to understand the strengths and weaknesses of an area, and adapt management approaches to achieve better outcomes. In October, a three-day workshop was held in Port Vila to collectively adapt the tool and train nearly twenty participants. This will be followed by field assessments and training within the country's conservation areas. The adapted tool and results of the assessments are set to be published in mid-2020.

Timor-Leste Protected Areas Workshop

In partnership with the Timor-Leste Government and Conservation International, IUCN convened a three-day workshop in Dili in July. The training focused on tools and practices such as the World Database on Protected Areas and reviewing the country's management needs. This was followed by a site visit to Nino Konis Santana National Park.

Samoa Protected Areas Database and Reporting Workshop

IUCN Oceania convened a training workshop with the UN Environment World Conservation Monitoring Centre in Apia in July. This training focused on the World Database on Protected Areas, Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness and Other Effective Area-based Conservation Measures Screening Tool. Participants attended from SPREP, Samoa Government and The Nature Conservancy.

Oceania State of Protected and Conserved Areas Report

IUCN Oceania is leading the preparation of the Oceania State of Protected and Conserved Areas report. This publication will be the first comprehensive review and analysis of area based conservation measures in the region. It will outline progress against national and international targets, including on coverage, representativeness, connectivity and effectiveness. The report will also review protected area issues relevant to the region such as governance and sustainability, and is scheduled to be published in late 2020.

BIOPAMA Action Component

The BIOPAMA Action Component will see approximately EUR 3 Million of grants flow to the region to directly support on-ground protected area activities. The first call for proposals for medium grants (of up to EUR 400,000) was held late in 2019. A two calls for proposals for rapid response and small grant is expected in 2020

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. Building on workshops, consultations and field trips undertaken in 2018, the final project documents were developed and submitted to the GEF in 2019, with the project proper beginning in 2020.

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.

Building on workshops, consultations and field trips undertaken in 2018, the final project documents were developed and submitted to the GEF in 2019, with the project proper beginning in 2020.

CRITICAL ECOSYSTEM PARTNERSHIP FUND (CEPF)

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.

The Bats of Vanuatu

Vanuatu Environmental Science Society (V ESS) is undertaking two grants with CEPF, focusing on the protection and management of priority species – the dugong, and Vanuatu flying foxes.

An exhibition on the Bats of Vanuatu was held at the Espace Alliance Française in Port Vila in April 2019. Posters and factsheets were displayed with general information about bats and their ecosystems in Vanuatu. On the opening night of the exhibition, Christina Shaw gave a public talk on bats of Vanuatu and the findings of the CEPF-funded expedition to the Bank islands and Temotu. Life-sized models of the four flying foxes in Vanuatu, created by Anne O'Brien, were displayed and proved very popular with the public!



School kids enjoy the model bats, Vanuatu
Credit: Vanuatu Environmental Science Society

Bee-keeping in the Solomon Islands

Gizo Women in Business GWIB are working on Kolombangara island with the aim of providing local communities with an alternative income source to logging, as well as maintaining the biodiversity of the island. They are doing this through a bee-keeping project, which is empowering families, especially women, with knowledge, skills, opportunities, access to finance, transport and markets for honey.

Over the course of its implementation, the team have conducted training on bee farming techniques, and building each member's capacity to better manage their finances while running their farms and marketing the products. GWIB hope that by the end of its funding from CEPF, it can be a self-sustaining organization and expand the bee keeping project to other nearby communities showing interest in producing honey.

First ever biodiversity survey in Kunua, Bougainville!

After a series of stakeholder engagements and acquisition of formal consent from the chiefs and community leaders in Teua, Kunua District, Junior Novera from the University of Queensland (and also from Kunua), led a team of scientists from Australia and Solomon Islands to conduct the first ever biodiversity survey on west coast Bougainville!

The primary aim is to document the poorly known fauna and flora and encourage a long-term goal of backyard conservation in Kunua District. The study site is located within the CEPF priority KBA of Kunua Plains and Mt Balbi, and encompasses a vast area of unbroken forests, occurring from as low as 200m to over 2000 m above sea level. Kunua is truly one of the last frontiers of continuous pristine forest, vegetated waterfalls, crystal clear drinkable streams and fast-flowing rivers, in the Bougainville and Solomon Islands archipelago.

Initial findings suggest that the survey team have discovered and rediscovered unique fauna and flora of the Kunua Plains and Mt Balbi KBA. The survey will contribute immensely to the baseline information of the KBA and allow informed decision-making processes to conserve the area and its rich cultural diversity.



Mt Balbi/Kunua Plains
Credit: Helen Pippard

First forest protected area for the Solomon Islands!

On 26th November 2019, the land of the Sirebe Tribe in Choiseul Province was declared a Protected Area under the Protected Area Act 2010 and regulations 2012. This tribal area is located along the Kolombangara River in the Mount Maetambe- Kolombangara River KBA, one of CEPF's priority sites for conservation efforts in the country.

The Sirebe Tribe will also be the first tribe in the country to trade carbon credits. CEPF grantee Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) has been working with the Sirebe tribe to introduce this scheme, called the Nakau Programme, so that the Sirebe community can sell carbon offsets and conservation credits, thereby switching from forest clearance to a conservation model that protects forests. During the ceremony, Sirebe was presented with a payment of SBD 100,000 to kick off and trial their Forest Carbon Project. Sirebe will start supplying their first credits to the European market by early 2020.

CEPF is happy to have co-supported the various tribes in the Mt Maetambe-Kolombangara River KBA since 2013, through the work of Ecological Solutions Solomon Islands and NRDF. The success of this Protected Area process came from the collaboration and commitment of national (MECDM) and provincial (Choiseul) government; the Luru Land Conference of tribal communities and the tribal chiefs of Babatana; NGOs such as the Nakau programme, WWF, EKOS and Live and Learn; and from other donors such as Bread for the World, the EU, USAID and the GEF5 funded FAO IMF project.

Partners meet on Kolombangara

The island of Kolombangara in Solomon Islands is an important site for a number of donors and partners. CEPF is co-funding a project with Rainforest Trust, which sees WCS (Wildlife Conservation Society) and KIBCA (the Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association) working with the tribal landowners and other key partners towards formal protection, particularly of the customary land area above 400m.

IUCN joined representatives from WCS, Rainforest Trust, KIBCA, FAO's Integrated Forest Management program, Kolombangara Forest Products Ltd, Dughore Women's Association and Kolombangara Island Council of Chiefs at Imbu Rano, and from FAO, IMF, the Ministry of Environment (MECDM) and Kolombangara Land Trust Foundation in Honiara. The aim was to ensure that all partners and donors coordinate and collaborate for successful delivery of activities, not only to establish a PA for the island, but also to explore relevant and locally driven livelihood options alongside any formal protection.

Vanuatu Rangers Toolkit

Live and Learn Vanuatu (LLV) has been leading the Ranger Program in Vanuatu and promoting conservation and sustainable use of Vanuatu's Key Biodiversity Areas and Community Conservation Areas (CCAs). Since May 2018, LLV has been working with five registered CCAs in Vanuatu in partnership with the Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC) and Eco-livelihood Association (EDA) to develop a Biodiversity monitoring toolkit and CCA Ranger App for building and strengthening indigenous CCA Ranger capacities in managing and monitoring Vanuatu's threatened, endemic and other significant species of flora and fauna. Training has taken place in Loru, Santo, and in Port Vila, where indigenous rangers from Loru, Tabwemasana and Vathe in Santo, and Malakolop in Gaua and Crab Bay, Malekula have come together to learn skills and commit their CCAs for piloting of the CCA Ranger toolkit and CCA Ranger App.

Nakau Programme, Vanuatu

With funding from CEPF, Nakau has been working with communities and companies in Gaua, Santo and Tanna to progress ecotourism activities in Vanuatu. An initial major outcome of the project has been the establishment of the first Community Conservation Area (CCA) in Torba Province, with the registration taking place in July 2019 in Dolav community, West Gaua. The Malaklolop CCA is located on the SW coast of Gaua, an area that feeds into Lake Gaua. Its establishment will help to protect and manage the island's biological diversity and uniqueness. As part of the same project, Nakau have successfully developed tourism plans to encourage financing of conservation activities within the Malaklolop CCA on Gaua and Nusumetu Protected Area on Tanna.

On Santo, direct financial support was provided to the development of an improved eco-trekking tour of Mount Tabwemasana. On 17 June 2019, Chief Aram of Kerepua community signed a partnership agreement with tour agent, Wrecks to Rainforest, to support conservation activities in the Mt Tabwemasana CCA. The agreement, signed in the presence of Department of Tourism's Sanma Provincial Manager, Ben Kauru, will ensure that benefits of tours are equitably shared, with some money going directly to conservation outcomes in the Tabwemasana CCA through a conservation levy scheme for tourists

Payments for Ecosystems Services in the Solomon Islands

Natural Resources Development Foundation (NRDF) is working with tribes in Choiseul to promote Payment for Ecosystem Services through the Nakau programme methodology in the Mt Maetambe-Kolombangara KBA priority site. Communities will partner with Nakau to sell carbon offsets and conservation credits, thereby switching from activities that clear forest, to a conservation

model that protects forests. To become eligible for the scheme, the forest area boundaries must be mapped and potential conservation credits quantified. The site must be established as a Protected Area before an agreement can be signed between the community, Nakau and international buyers.

Public notices for the Siporae and Garasa tribes were submitted to the Ministry of Environment in April. The Sirebe tribe are undertaking the last steps in declaring their Protected Area. All involved in conservation activities in the KBA are hopeful that these tribal areas will be designated as protected very shortly! In the meantime, NRDF and Nakau have worked at securing international buyers of carbon credits for these forested areas in Choiseul.

Mai Maasina Green Belt

During the 2016 CEPF Grantee Exchange held in Honiara, a group of young conservation advocators from Are Are and Kwaio in Malaita came together and established the Mai Maasina Green Belt. Its primary vision is to work towards a "Green" Malaita by tackling logging and supporting its member communities to move towards Protected Area establishment.

With monetary support from the CEPF small grants program, the group aims to strengthen its organizational structure and policies, develop a strategic plan, and explore alternative sources of income such as carbon trading, bee-keeping, kava farming and ecotourism. During October, IUCN attended the group's first planning day in Are Are, West Malaita. Eleven members of the Mai Maasina Green Belt Initiative successfully came together in 2019 to review the organization's constitution and begin strategic planning for the future of conservation on Malaita.



Locals from the Wisai community, in southern Bougainville.
Credit: Helen Pippard



Medinilla species found in Kadavu, Fiji
Credit: Marika Tuiwawa, USP

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.

CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMME

The IUCN Oceania Climate Change Programme aims to help Pacific Island Countries build resilience to climate change by:

- safeguarding biodiversity by positioning nature conservation at the heart of community and country responses to their energy needs
- integrating sustainable energy systems into developing new and expanded livelihoods
- reducing plastic waste generation and leakage from islands, and driving the circular economy agenda forward

A Plastic Waste-Free Pacific

“Plastic Waste-Free Islands” sounds like a dream, but this project aims to bring it to reality. Supported by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), the Plastic Waste Free Islands (PWFI) is a three year initiative implemented in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu (and also in the Caribbean) that aims to collaboratively address the problem of plastic waste leakage from island states targeting the key sectors of tourism, fisheries and waste management. Pre-inception consultations to introduce the PWFI project to key stakeholders in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu were held in November 2019. At the end of the project, the tools and lessons learnt will be packaged into a scalable ‘blueprint’ for use by other Pacific Islands Countries and key regional bodies. Underpinning the PWFI, in August 2019 at the World Water Week in Sweden, IUCN launched a report that identified numerous gaps and opportunities for developing a standard methodology to measure the extent of the plastic pollution crisis. The urgently needed methodology will provide decision makers with improved data collection and analysis on plastic waste management at the global, regional and national levels.

Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (EESLI)

With funding support from the governments of Italy, Spain, Austria and Luxembourg, EESLI works with 10 countries and supports government-led initiatives, small grants for CSOs and SMEs, plus special initiatives to support climate change mitigation and risk reduction measures. In 2019 EESLI supported a number of new and existing projects including:

Renewable Energy for 2 Coffee-Producing Communities in Papua New Guinea

In partnership with the Research and Conservation Foundation of PNG, this project involves the fabrication and installation of equipment for a mini-hydro power plant for 2 coffee-producing communities. Despite facing logistical and labour intensive requirements inherent to the very isolated conservation areas within the Crater Mountains of the Eastern Highlands, a mini hydro plant was successfully installed and operational in 2019.

Renewable Energy for Kundiawa community in Papua New Guinea

In partnership with local community based organisation the Voice of Yongos, this project focuses on installation of solar photovoltaic household kits to support livelihoods of four hundred fifty (450) households in Kundiawa Village of the Simbu province of PNG. Reduction in cutting down of biomass for energy use aids in safeguarding the surrounding ecosystem from degradation and supports the concurrent reforestation efforts in the surrounding conservation area.



Light at a house in Kundiawa village
Credit: PNG Energy team

The Drua Experience in Fiji

This project involves reinvigorating traditional sailing skills in Fijian youth through the conduct of certified training programme in traditional Fijian seafaring and increased awareness of the value of traditional knowledge of boat building. This underpins the need for replanting and enhanced conservation management of heritage timber species that are used in boatbuilding. The training workshops were conducted by Sailing for Sustainability, Fiji with 200 youths trained from October, 2018 to March 2019.



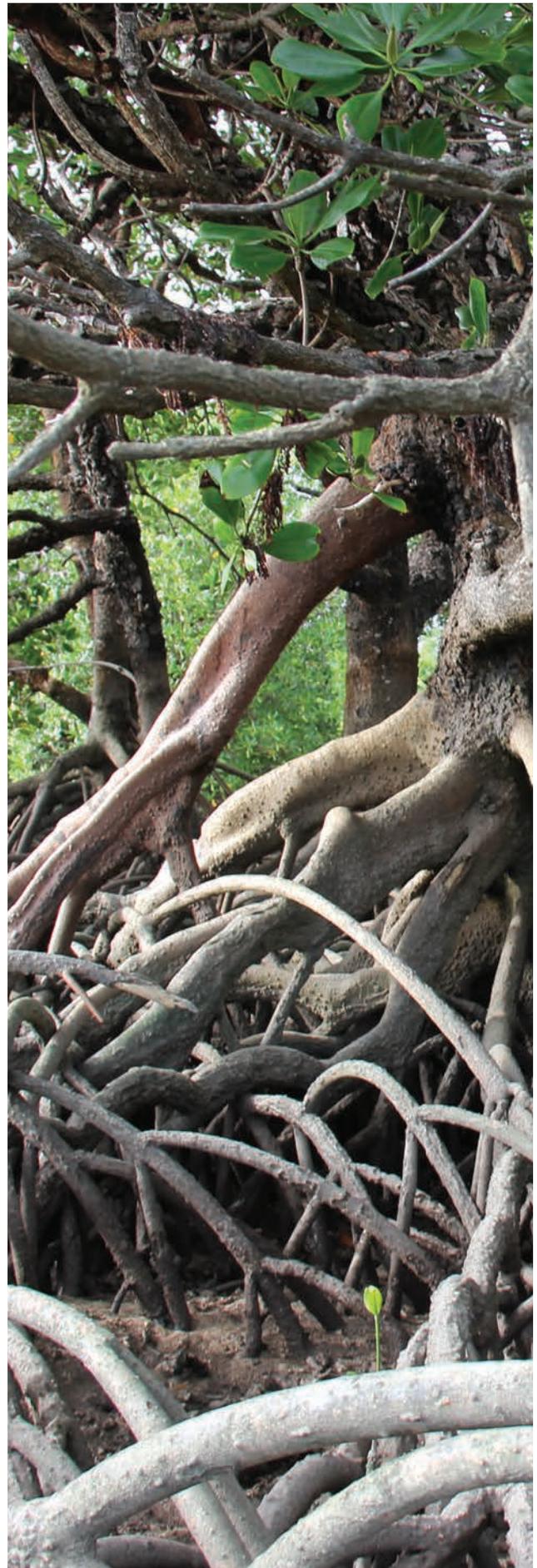
Students participating in a theory class, Fiji
Credit: Drua Experience

Pusiji Community Project in Solomon Islands

Sirubai Voko Tribe Association is a community-based organisation that has been driving successful initiatives in Pusiju village in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands. These include a food security project (taro farm), the construction of an Education Centre, a Kindy School (Pusiju Kindy School), and a forest survey in the Pusiju conservation area which was complemented well by this project which involves the installation of solar systems. The solar power systems have enhanced the level of learning for children in Pusiju as well as supported a successful community copra-buying operation in the village.

Solar Showcase and Training for Rural Colleges in the Solomon Islands

In partnership with solar service company Superfly Ltd, this project is trialing integrating training material into a live solar installation. Within the scope of the solar installation training program, solar systems were also installed and are now powering classrooms in Rural Training Centers (RTC) in Kaotave in East Guadalcanal, St Peters in Gizo and Batuna in Marovo Lagoon. In addition to the carbon emissions avoided by the RTCs, the greatest value for the schools was in having a showcase of a quality system, and the experience in hands-on installation.



Mangrove roots tangle in Torres Strait Islands
Credit: Tony O'Keeffe



Tegano Lake, East Rennell, Solomon Island
Credit: Paul Dingwell

EFFECTIVE AND EQUITABLE GOVERNANCE OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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 can continue 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.

In 2019, as well as providing input into a number of regional and national reviews of environmental and climate change related policies and frameworks, PCEG supported a number of new and existing projects including:

Red List of Ecosystems Risk Assessment Training

The IUCN Red List of Ecosystems (RLE) is a toolbox consisting of a set of categories and criteria for assessing the risks to ecosystems, to focus attention on the most threatened ecosystems. It analyses risks to biodiversity at all scales to support conservation, resource use, and management decisions by identifying ecosystems most at risk. Ultimately, the RLE methodology will be utilised to determine the global status of the world's terrestrial, marine, freshwater and subterranean ecosystems.

In partnership with the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, IUCN has supported the Oceania roll-out of the RLE toolbox by holding training workshops for relevant stakeholders. The first workshop took place in Suva, Fiji in April with participants comprised of regional Members, commissioners and partners. A second workshop was hosted in Nuku'alofa, Tonga in October, specifically to train participants to conduct the first ever RLE assessment in the Pacific, on mangroves on the main island of Tongatapu.

Fiji National Framework for developing Terrestrial Protected Areas.

IUCN ORO was commissioned by the Fiji Government, with funding from GEF 4 for Protected Areas Management, to develop a national framework for a national system of terrestrial protected areas in Fiji. The framework was to build on the Review of Policy and Legislative, which IUCN ORO carried in 2006. Key stakeholders including local communities, protected area managers and policy makers were consulted during the development of the framework. The framework provided Fiji with key management issues, policy and legislative context and gaps. It also outlines the vision, objectives, institutional arrangements, principles, design, establishment and management, knowledge management and monitoring and options for sustainable financing. Fiji Government and IUCN ORO have developed a proposal to secure funding for an overarching protected areas framework, which will include a national network of marine protected areas.

Carbon Rights in Fiji

Conservation International, supported by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility and the leadership of the REDD+ Unit under the Fiji Ministry of Forests, is assisting the Fiji Government to implement an Emission Reduction Program under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and Kyoto Protocol. In 2019, IUCN was part of a team of consultants that reviewed the "REDD+ and Forest Carbon Rights in Fiji: Background Legal Analysis", identifying gaps to enable the Government of Fiji to assign property rights to forest carbon and to transfer Emission Title to third parties, while also respecting the land and resource tenure rights of the potential rights-holders, including iTaukei and non-iTaukei.

Oceania Environmental Law Conference

The Environmental Law Unit secured a small grant from the US Embassy in Fiji to enable it to host the first Oceania Environmental Law Conference in the region. The Conference will focus on the challenges and opportunities that Pacific island countries face in protecting and managing natural resources and the environment through law; and explore opportunities to leverage legal tools and approaches to drive and scale-up positive conservation and development outcomes. The Conference is scheduled for early 2021 and will attract environmental law and policy analysts and professionals in the Region.



RLE workshop participants in Tonga take part during group work
Credit: MEIDECC Tonga

Environmental Law 2030 and Beyond

The IUCN Oceania Environmental Law Unit participated in a number of key events at the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum, including a side event with World Commission for Environmental Law (WCEL) Executive Officer Emily Gaskin on the topic 'Environmental Law 2030 and Beyond: Solving Complex Global Crises in the Pacific Ocean'. At this both face to face and virtual event, WCEL introduced the focus of its work and the work of its members in achieving the mandate of the Commission and the focus areas of the Commission for the next World Environmental Law Congress 2020 and for the World Conservation Congress 2020. The Pacific Islands Students Fighting Climate Change was also introduced at this event. It is an organisation established by law students of the University of the South Pacific's Emalus Campus in Vanuatu whose mission is to fight climate change at every level.

World Commission for Environmental Law (WCEL)

IUCN Oceania is proud to note that in 2019 its Senior Environmental Legal Officer, Maria-Goreti Muavesi, became a member of the WCEL Steering Committee upon her nomination by the Chair of the WCEL and Justice of the High Court of Brazil, Justice Antonio Benjamin. In 2019 a key focus of the Steering Committee was developing the Programme for the 2020 World Environmental Law Congress.

Pacific Network for Environmental Law (PaNEL)

PaNEL is formally recognised as the Law Working Group of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation. Members of the Network had the opportunity in 2019 to meet at the Annual Meeting of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation held in Suva, Fiji, which in turn coincided with the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum.

Asia-Pacific Judicial Conference on Climate Change Adjudication: Trends and Impacts

In October 2019, the Supreme Court of Fiji (SCF) partnered with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the United Nations Environment Programme to co-host the Asia-Pacific Judicial Conference on Environmental and Climate Change Adjudication in Nadi, Fiji under the banner of the Asian Judges Network on Environment (AJNE). AJNE is the judicial association that is working towards the strengthening of environmental and climate change adjudication. At the conference, IUCN Oceania Environmental Law Unit presented on the topic "Plastic Pollution in Oceans: Regional Focus and Judicial Strategies".

Legal frameworks for Marine Spatial Planning

In August 2019, the Blue Prosperity Coalition, in partnership with the Environmental Law Institute, Waitt Institute, and IUCN Oceania Regional Office, undertook a Blue Prosperity Workshop Series: Marine Spatial Planning Law workshop which focused on key elements of drafting legal frameworks for marine spatial planning.

The aim of the workshop, held in Auckland, New Zealand, was strengthening the capacity of island nations and territories to draft effective, locally appropriate marine spatial planning laws and thereby assist those nations and territories that are now undertaking marine spatial planning, or that may do so in the future.

Environmental Crimes and Corruption

The Pacific Islands Legal Officers Network (PILON), a network of senior law officers from Pacific island countries, focuses on legal issues that are not addressed in other Pacific policy forums, and aims to provide a forum where these issues can be discussed and progressed at a regional level. PILON held its 2019 Annual Meeting in Apia, Samoa. IUCN Oceania was invited to attend and to make a presentation on Environmental Crimes and Corruption, one of PILON's 3 strategic priority areas. Delivered by Maria-Goreti Muavesi, the IUCN Oceania Senior Environmental Legal Officer, the presentation focused on introducing IUCN with the aim of seeing what IUCN, through its Environmental Law Programme, can offer to assist PILON members in implementing activities related to this strategic priority area.



Senior Environmental Legal Officer, Maria-Goreti Muavesi presents at the PILON meeting
Credit: Romulo Nayacalevu/MSG

OCEANIA REGIONAL CONSERVATION FORUM

Held every four years, IUCN convened the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum (RCF) in Suva, Fiji from 29th July to 3rd August as a lead up to the 2020 IUCN World Conservation Congress (now postponed to January 2021 due to COVID-19).

With over 100 regional and global participants attending, including Dr Grethel Aguilar, the Acting Director General of IUCN, and Ms Aban Marker Kabraji, the Regional Director of IUCN Asia and Director IUCN Regional Hub for Asia - Oceania, the Oceania RCF gave an opportunity for IUCN Members and Commission members in Oceania to report on the work they have been doing and importantly, provide initial feedback to the IUCN Oceania regional plan 2021–2024 that will ultimately feed into the IUCN Programme 2021–2024.

There were a number of interesting events at the Oceania RCF that opened constructive dialogue amongst the Union. Aimed to influence the global agenda and inspire transformational change, the Programme was structured around four themes, Healthy Lands and Waters, Healthy Oceans, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, and Equitable Governance of Natural Resources.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress, the world's leading biodiversity event, will take place in Marseille, France in 2021, under the theme 'One nature, one future'. With this theme, the Congress will highlight the need for a healthy natural world as a prerequisite for assuring the sustainable future of our planet.



Our Commissions

IUCN's six Commissions unite over 15,000 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)

CEM is an experts network with over 1,000 members worldwide and 72 members in Oceania, working on ecosystem management related issues including climate change adaptation, disaster risk reduction, the IUCN Red List of Ecosystems, fisheries and ecosystem restoration and services, and the Global Standard for the Design and Verification of Nature-based Solutions.

Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)

CEESP is an inter-disciplinary network of expert professionals, with approximately 1,500 members worldwide and 89 members in Oceania. Its 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, including through the IUCN Natural Resource Governance Framework.

World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)

WCEL is a network of environmental law and policy experts, with over 900 members worldwide and 99 members in Oceania, providing knowledge and services to IUCN activities, including convening the World Environmental Law Congress. 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 of experts driving change for sustainability, with approximately 1,700 members worldwide and 72 members in Oceania providing their professional expertise in learning, knowledge management and strategic communication to achieve IUCN goals.

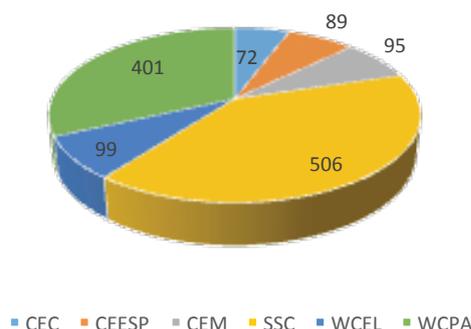
Species Survival Commission (SSC)

SSC is a science-based network of experts with more than 9,000 members from almost every country in the world and with 506 members in Oceania, all working on biodiversity conservation, the inherent value of species, their role in ecosystem health and functioning including the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species, the provision of ecosystem services, and their support to human livelihoods.

World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)

WCPA is the world's premier network of protected area expertise, spanning 140 countries and with over 2,500 members, including 401 members in Oceania, mobilizing action in science, conservation, policy, and engagement to support well managed and connected parks and other protected areas, including through the IUCN Green List of Protected Areas..

+ 1,200 Commission members in Oceania



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.



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Acronyms

ACMCA	Arnavon Community Marine Conservation Area	IMG	International Monetary Fund
OACPS	Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States	IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
AJNE	Asian Judges Network on Environment	KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Programme	KIBCA	Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	LLV	Live and Lean Vanuatu
CCAs	Community Conservation Areas	M-CMERP	Melanesian-Coastal and Marine Ecosystem Resilience Programme
CEC	Commission on Education and Communication	MACBIO	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries
CEESP	Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy	MECDM	Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
CEM	Commission on Ecosystem Management	METT	Management Effectiveness Tracking Tool
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	MPAs	Marine Protected Areas
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	MSG	Melanesian Spearhead Group
CSO	Civil Society Organisations	NORAD	Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation
DEPC	Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation	NRDF	Natural Resources Development Foundation
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation	ORO	Oceania Regional Office
ECARE	Expanding Conservation Areas Reach and Effectiveness	PaNEL	Pacific Network for Environmental Law
EESLI	Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihood Initiative	PCEG	Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zones	PIFS	Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat
EMI	East Melanesian Islands	PILON	The Pacific Islands Legal Officers Network
EREPA	Ensuring resilient ecosystems and representative protected areas	PWFI	Plastic Waste Free Islands
EU	European Union	RCF	Regional Conservation Forum
EU-PEUMP	European Union-Pacific European Union Marine Partnership Programme	RIT	Regional Implementation Team
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	RLE	Red List of Ecosystems
FCPF	Forest Carbon Partnership Facility	RTC	Rural Training Centres
FLMMA	Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas	SINOP	Solomon Islands National Ocean Policy
GCCA+	Global Climate Change Alliance	SMART	Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool
GEF	Global Environment Facility	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
GoS	Government of Samoa	TCA	Tenkile Conservation Alliance
GWIB	Gizo Women in Business	TKCP-PNG	Tree Kangaroo Conservation Program
		UNCA	Upper Navua Conservation Area
		UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
		VESS	Vanuatu Environmental Science Society
		WCEL	World Commission for Environmental Law
		WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas

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