



IUCN in Oceania

Annual Report 2011



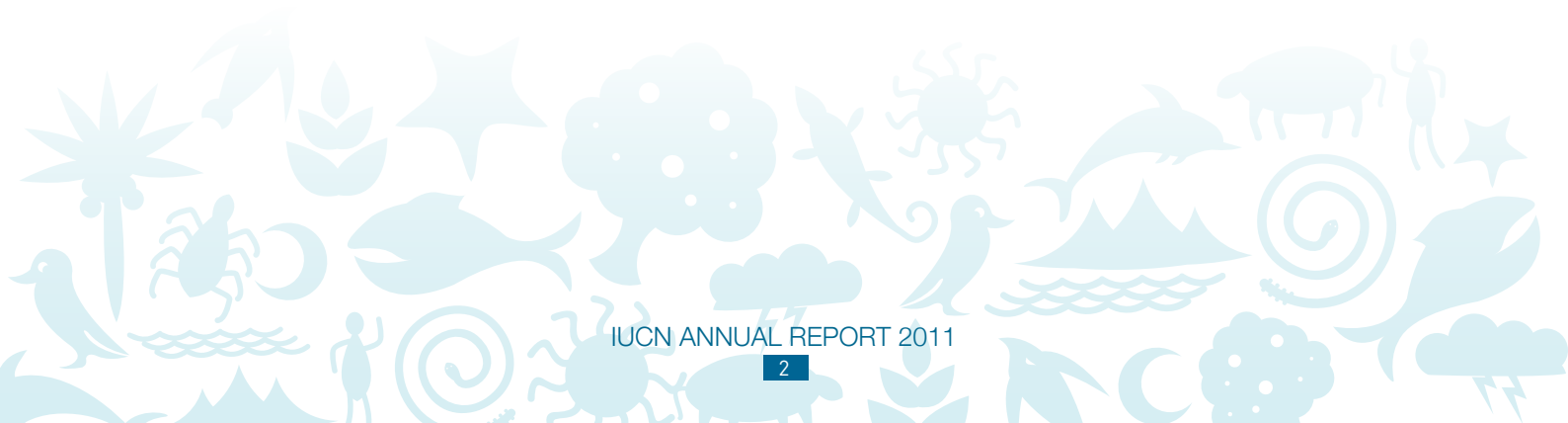


Our Vision

A just world that values and conserves nature.

Our Mission

To influence, encourage and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.





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Foreword



Bula all,

2011 completed five years since establishing the regional IUCN Oceania Office in January 2007. We started with three staff, only Australia and New Zealand as State Members and limited funding. In the Pacific Islands region few outside the conservation circle knew anything of IUCN. Five years on, we can point at some achievements starting with the addition of five Pacific Islands State Members (Nauru, Tonga, Samoa, Fiji and Solomon Islands) and activities in 12 Pacific Island Countries. Our team has grown to 22 staff and we are now involved in the key regional networks in all our priority programme areas and finally getting the core capacity to really do some exciting work and make the kind of impacts we aspired to five years ago.

The Members meeting in Brisbane hosted by the Australian Committee for IUCN (ACIUCN) in August endorsed the progress of the regional office and also highlighted the enthusiasm from Australian Members with the full time ACIUCN Director Penelope Figgis on board. There was recognition that with a strong IUCN presence emerging in the Pacific Islands region the links between Australia and New Zealand Members can now become a reality with the new regional programme for 2013 – 2016. I look forward to building on this platform of Members, Commissions and a stronger Secretariat towards bigger and more effective conservation outcomes into the future.

As we head into 2012 and the Rio+20 Summit as well as the World Conservation Congress, the world is coming to a consensus that despite the rhetoric, we have not met the aspirations of Rio twenty years ago for a more sustainable world. The expected outcomes will demand more attention towards approaches to the green economy and economic development engaging in a “green growth” mode. We must ensure that conservation and environment outcomes as well as social benefits are at the center of the green economy discussion. Oceania with its smaller populations in relation to massive marine and ocean resources as well as unique terrestrial biodiversity has special values for the world when we remove the “per capita lens” and look through a “climate change and sustainability lens”. We in the region know that we have to get right the large conservation commitments at all levels, but there is a growing case to present - that the world needs an Oceania region with its relatively healthy ecosystems and intact biodiversity and must invest in ensuring we can manage it well.

Finally, I am glad to be part of a strong team in the Oceania Office and we are seeing some exciting results from our programmes and activities. Some of the highlights for the team include:

- **Sustainable energy:** With projects in over six Pacific countries, one of the highlights was bringing together Development Banks from around the region to discuss and endorse a proposal to replicate the National Development Bank of Palau’s project with IUCN under our Italy / Austria funded initiative to provide low interest loans for eco- and efficient housing. This project is now being extended to include small tourism operators and potentially other sectors in future. Our energy programme continues to be an influential regional partner with energy issues as a core partner in the key regional networks.
- **Mangroves –** The Pacific Mangroves Initiative (PMI) met for its inaugural meeting with co-chairs (SPREP / IUCN) and key partners and countries. With IUCN’s Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods (MESCAL) project in five countries we are building an umbrella initiative that we hope will secure the management and conservation of mangrove ecosystems in the Pacific.
- **New programmes: Marine and Law –** we now have a Marine Programme Coordinator on board with Jan Steffen joining the Oceania team and we look forward to developing an exciting regional Marine Programme that links across all parts of IUCN in Oceania. We have also formed a separate Law Programme under the leadership of Christine Trenorden.

You can read more of our activities in the pages that follow, but I would like to conclude by thanking our Regional Councillors: Robin Yarrow, Brendan Mackey and Diana Shand, our National Committees and Members, the many partners and donors who have stepped up to work with us, the Director General Julia Marton-Lefèvre and the IUCN colleagues in Gland and around the world, and finally our team here in the Oceania Regional Office.

Vinaka, malo aupito and ‘ofa atu,

Taholo Kami
Regional Director



Highlights of 2011

January

- IUCN Oceania joined the 'Sharing Power' Conference in Whakatane, New Zealand, organized by the IUCN Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP).
- IUCN Oceania provided training to the Nadi Basin Catchment Committee to increase understanding of the Environmental Impact Assessment process stipulated under Fiji's *Environment Management Act*.
- IUCN Oceania partnered with UNEP Risoe Centre, the Fiji Government and SPREP to conduct the first regional Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Capacity Building Workshop in Fiji.
- IUCN Oceania and the Global Marine Species Assessment Unit brought together leading experts in Palau to assess the status of 500 species of Gobies and Cardinalfishes (Gobiidae and Apogonidae).

February

- As part of efforts to improve knowledge of Pacific island species, IUCN Oceania's Species Programme, together with the IUCN Red List Unit trained species specialists from the region to conduct assessments using IUCN's Red List Categories and Criteria.
- IUCN Oceania facilitated the Pacific Regional Meeting in Sydney, Australia, to review the proposal on the Forest Investment Programme's Dedicated Grant Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
- IUCN conducted a regular monitoring mission to the Lagoons of New Caledonia, a World Heritage Site, to review management of the site, evaluate mining impacts and review zoning.

- Fiji's Department of Environment, an IUCN Member, launched its National Biodiversity and Strategy Action Plan - Five Year Implementation Framework.
- IUCN Oceania participated in discussions to develop the Framework for Action on Energy Security in the Pacific (FAESP), to replace the Pacific Islands Energy Policy (2004).

March

- The Steering Committee for the IUCN Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) held its 31st Steering Committee meeting in Suva, Fiji. Members also shared their experiences on ecosystem-based management with the Nadi Basin Catchment Committee as part of the Water and Nature Initiative (WANI).
- IUCN and the South Pacific Tourism Organisation signed a Memorandum of Understanding to pursue green tourism ventures.
- IUCN Oceania participated in the inaugural meeting of the 'High Seas Alliance', initiated by IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas to consolidate a wide-ranging partnership of policy-science and conservation experts aiming to protect areas beyond national jurisdiction.
- IUCN Oceania, with support from the Governments of Austria and Italy, produced a video featuring climate change mitigation and adaptation activities such as energy efficiency and renewable energy, in 12 Pacific Island Countries.

Highlights of 2011

April

- IUCN Oceania trained energy officers from the region at a workshop in Nadi, Fiji, to understand the process of Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) for renewable energy projects.
- IUCN Oceania supported several voyages of the *Uto ni Yalo*, the traditional double hulled canoe operated by the Fiji Islands Voyaging Society, and educated crew members on marine environmental issues - particularly invasive species, marine pollution and ocean acidification.
- IUCN Oceania provided technical guidance during a World Heritage workshop in Fiji, aiming to establish of a 'Pacific Heritage Hub', which would facilitate capacity-building, networking and sustainable financing of natural and cultural heritage conservation in the Pacific Islands region.

May

- The New Zealand Antarctic Institute and Te Ipukarea Society (Cook Islands) were welcomed into the Union as IUCN Members at the 76th Meeting of the IUCN Council.

June

- The Ningaloo Coast in Australia was added to the UNESCO World Heritage List based on IUCN's assessment.
- IUCN Oceania and SPREP convened a meeting of the Pacific Mangrove Initiative Steering Committee to discuss further collaboration on mangrove ecosystem management in the region.
- Participating countries in IUCN's mangrove project, MESCAL, finalized work plans and financial arrangements for national level implementation.
- IUCN Oceania provided technical input during the SPC-SOPAC 'High Level Briefing on the Status of Deep Sea Minerals in the Pacific Islands Region' and joined the Steering Committee for the 'Regional Deep Sea Mineral Assessment' in Nadi, Fiji.

July

- IUCN Oceania brought together members of the Association of Development Financing Institutions in the Pacific (ADFIP) who agreed to pursue opportunities to incorporate energy efficiency and solar photovoltaic loan schemes into their regional portfolio.
- IUCN Oceania co-hosted the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation focusing on 'Nature's Role in a Green/Blue Economy' in Suva, Fiji.
- At the Rio+20 Pacific Preparatory Meeting in Samoa, IUCN Oceania called on Pacific Ministers to incorporate nature-based solutions into green economy discussions.

August

- The Oceania Regional Conservation Forum in Brisbane, Australia, convened IUCN Oceania Members to discuss IUCN's Global and Oceania Regional Programmes for the period 2013-2016.

September

- IUCN Oceania participated in the Pacific Islands Showcase held in New Zealand as part of the Pacific Islands Forum Leaders' meeting.
- IUCN Oceania and ICOMOS facilitated respective sessions on natural and cultural heritage in the 4th Pacific World Heritage workshop in Apia, Samoa.
- IUCN Oceania and partners continued the evaluation of reptiles, land snails and freshwater fishes of the Pacific Islands for incorporation into the IUCN Red List.

October

- IUCN Oceania joined other IUCN regional offices in a three-day visit to Brussels for dialogues with the European Commission, the EU-ACP representatives of the European Parliament, and the Secretariat of the ACP Group of States.
- IUCN Oceania provided technical input to the regional conference on the development of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) and Programme of Work on Protected Areas implementation strategies, co-hosted by the CBD -Secretariat and SPREP in Nadi, Fiji.

November

- IUCN Oceania participated in the 'South-West Pacific Regional Workshop to identify Ecologically or Biologically Significant Areas, a process that is also supported by IUCN's coordination role in the Global Ocean Biodiversity Initiative.
- IUCN Oceania, UNEP Risoe Centre, the Fiji Department of Environment and SPREP conducted the fourth and final workshop on capacity development for CDM for Pacific Island Countries.

December

- Lessons learned from IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative were shared at the project's wrap-up meeting in Suva, Fiji.
- IUCN Oceania's MESCAL project team and partners gathered for a regional meeting in the Solomon Islands to identify appropriate research approaches for Pacific Island mangroves.
- As part of the Steering Committee for the 'Regional Deep Sea Mineral Assessment' IUCN Oceania participated in the review of initial assessment results in Nadi, Fiji.
- The flowering plant discovered in 2010 by scientists of the University of the South Pacific (an IUCN Member) in Kadavu, Fiji, was named *Medinilla matasawalevu*.

Where we work

IUCN Oceania Region

Oceania is geographically one of IUCN's largest regional programmes, covering over 100 million km² of land and ocean. The species diversity of the region is rich, underlined by endemism rates as high as 90% in certain groups - a feature reinforced by the remoteness of its many islands. Ecosystem diversity ranges from temperate to tropical realms, coral reefs to kelp forests, and includes atolls, mangroves, coastal plains, lowland and montane forests, wetlands, volcanic mountains and deserts. The IUCN Oceania region includes 24 countries and territories comprising the island countries of Polynesia, Micronesia and Melanesia, as well as Australia and New Zealand.

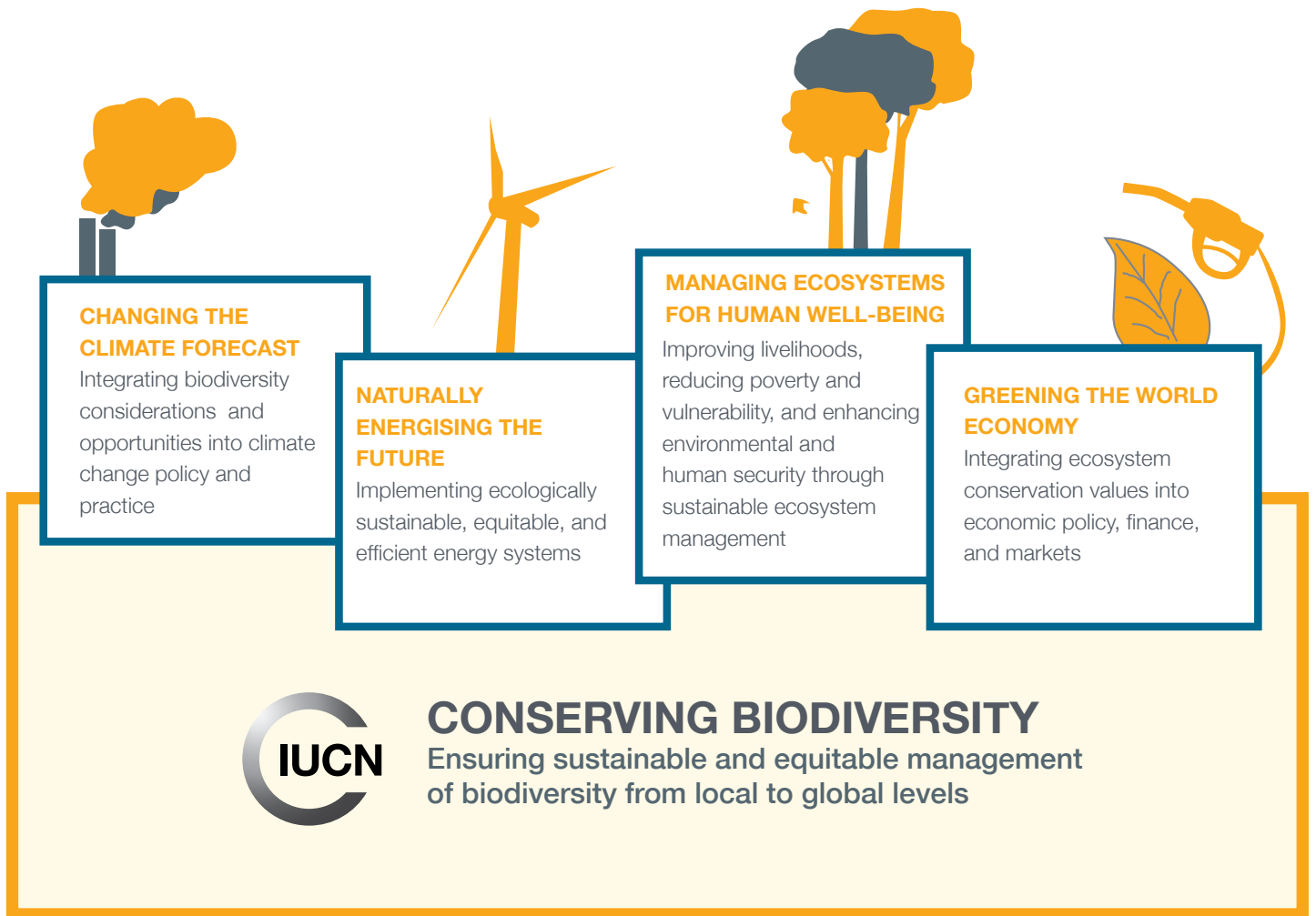
Across the Pacific Islands, nature plays a critical role in supporting island communities. Nature is both culturally significant and the primary source of food, water and income. Increasing pressures from growing populations, infrastructure developments and invasive species are increasing the risk of biodiversity loss in many countries.

Australia and New Zealand lead the region in terms of economic development, and have a solid capacity in the management of environmental aspects of developments. The countries and territories of the Pacific Islands have also made progress over the years in building environmental governance and policy. IUCN often acts as a broker for the environment, encouraging governments, like-minded organizations and communities to work together for the sustainable management of nature's resources. The concept of "investing in nature" is central to this approach: too often, humans view nature as a luxury or a problem rather than a solution. For the people of Oceania, it is vital that investments in natural resources promote sustainable long-term use, management, and conservation of the species that support their everyday lives.



How we work

IUCN's Global Programme 2009-2012 is the overall guide for the Union, and provides the framework for the IUCN Oceania Regional Programme (2009-2012), which is led by the IUCN Oceania Regional Office. The Union's core focus is ensuring sustainable and equitable management of biodiversity with an additional focus on four Thematic Programme Areas, which address human use and impacts on biodiversity. Through these thematic programmes, the Secretariat engages Members and partners to take action to deliver results in the pursuit of IUCN's mission: *A just world that values and conserves nature.*





IUCN Oceania Regional Programme

In 2011 the Oceania Regional Office delivered on the IUCN Oceania Regional Programme 2009-2012 through five programme areas and one initiative.



Species Programme

focuses on enhancing the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™ for the Pacific Islands region; contributes to efforts in combating invasive species in the Pacific region through the Pacific Invasives Partnership; supports governments in implementing the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species; and increases awareness of the status of species in the region.

Water and Wetlands Programme

focuses on integrating environmental concerns into water resource management, including promoting environmental flows, applying environmental economics, and enhancing watershed ecosystem management. It also aims to increase awareness about the role of natural solutions in climate change adaptation and the value of coastal ecosystems in the context of disaster risk reduction. In 2011, the programme also brought the Pacific Mangrove Initiative (PMI) under its oversight.

Pacific Mangroves Initiative (PMI)

is a regional partnership between SPREP, IUCN and countries of the Pacific Region. The PMI is seeking to enhance the management of mangroves and associated coastal ecosystems to sustain and improve livelihoods, enhance and sustain coastal biodiversity and explore adaptation and mitigation approaches to climate change. The Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods (MESCAL) project delivers on the initiative's goals.



Energy Programme

assists countries to accelerate their transition to energy systems that incorporate renewable energy, increase energy efficiency and minimize impacts on biodiversity, while being sustainable and socially equitable. The Energy Programme builds partnerships and synergies with other energy-related partners and regional organizations. Many of these approaches are demonstrated in the project Managing the Ecosystem and Livelihood Implications of Energy Policies in the Pacific Island States, which is supported by the Governments of Italy and Austria.

Marine Programme

seeks to widen marine resource management support by IUCN to its members and partners in the region. Key areas of support by the Programme include the establishment and management of marine protected areas (MPA) and MPA networks, the identification of ecologically and biologically significant areas in the central and western Pacific region, planned and existing coastal and marine World Heritage sites, environmental concerns related to deep sea mineral exploitation, and marine environmental education.

Environmental Law Programme

was formally established in 2011 to enhance governance of biodiversity and natural resources by increasing awareness of laws to protect and manage natural resources; encourage an integrated and rights-based approach to the management of natural resources in accordance with international obligations; provide assistance in building capacity and assist Pacific Island Member governments with the development of environmental policies and plans.

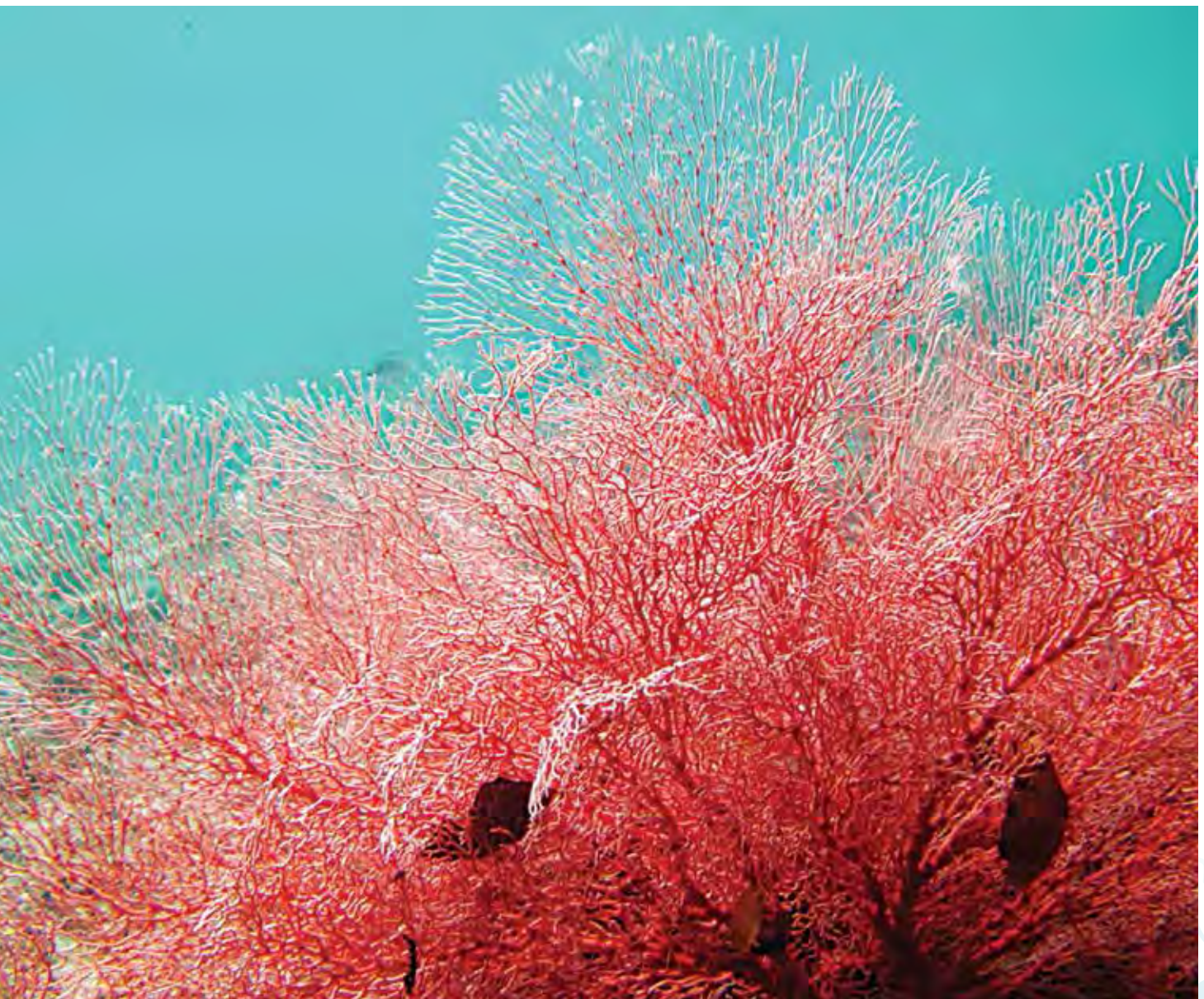


IUCN is also active in the area of environmental economics through support to the Pacific Regional Environmental Economics Network.

What we do

Biodiversity

Protecting and managing biodiversity is at the heart of the IUCN Oceania Regional Programme. The biodiversity of Oceania, and in particular the Pacific, is fragile: sharing and consolidating knowledge, improving management approaches and increasing the effectiveness of monitoring biodiversity is therefore crucial in the long term. In 2011, IUCN Oceania focused on building this knowledge and understanding through a variety of initiatives.





Updating information on the Pacific Islands for the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species™

Since 2010, IUCN Oceania has led an initiative to update information on Pacific Island species for inclusion in the IUCN Red List. In 2011, the first round of assessments and data evaluation on three groups - land snails, freshwater fishes and reptiles - was completed, with each species assigned provisional Red List categories. Finalization of the assessments for these groups will be completed in 2012. This initiative is supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, with additional support from Fonds Pacifique through SPREP. Technical expertise was provided by members of IUCN's Specialist Groups of the Species Survival Commission (SSC), IUCN Oceania Members including the University of the South Pacific and Landcare Research, regional organizations including SPREP and Conservation International, staff from IUCN's Species Programme, and the joint IUCN/Conservation International Biodiversity Assessment Unit.

Also in 2011, IUCN Oceania supported assessments of coral reef fishes in the region. IUCN Oceania and the Global Marine Species Assessment, collaborating with IUCN's Species Programme and Conservation International, held a workshop in January 2011 in Palau, to assess the status of gobies and cardinalfishes (Gobiidae and Apogonidae). Work is expected to continue into 2012 to develop a comprehensive dataset for the coral reef fishes of Oceania. The information compiled at this and previous workshops led to the publication of the journal article "Conservation Status of Marine Biodiversity in Oceania: An Analysis of Marine Species on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species", Polidoro et al 2011, in the Journal of Marine Biology.

Marine environmental education and outreach

In 2011, IUCN Oceania continued to support the Pacific Voyaging Network's Ocean of Hope Vaka Voyage Initiative, building and spreading knowledge on marine biodiversity and its conservation in the Pacific.

IUCN Oceania's Marine Programme worked in close collaboration with the Fiji Islands Voyaging Society and trained more than 30 crew members on marine conservation issues. In April, five of the seven Pacific vakas (traditional double-hulled canoes) were refitted in Auckland, New Zealand, and the Marine Programme used this opportunity to expand the environmental training sessions to 69 vaka crew members from eight countries: Fiji, French Polynesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Issues covered included ocean acidification and carbon cycle issues, biosecurity, invasive species, ocean noise, marine debris, and identification of marine mammals and sharks.

Each vaka was provided with a waterproof box containing educational resources related to the Pacific Ocean, for use during their 2011 trans-Pacific voyage. The resources addressed threats to marine life, and included identification guides for various species (whales and dolphins, birds, sharks, turtles, and fish). The work was supported by a grant from the Packard Foundation.

Spreading knowledge on a key ecosystem

Life on Fiji's Mangrove Trees, a publication written by Dr. Alison Haynes, was produced by IUCN Oceania and distributed through local high schools in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The publication introduces students to the organisms commonly found in mangrove swamps and helps to raise public awareness on mangroves and their significance. The printing of this publication was supported by the MESCAL project.



Changing the climate forecast

Climate change is a critical issue for Oceania. All countries are dealing with the challenges of climate change, and it is increasingly recognized that ecosystems provide natural solutions to begin the adaptation process, while contributing to climate change mitigation.

Reviewing governance and management of mangroves

Though mangroves are important coastal resources, degraded mangrove ecosystems are a common sight across the Pacific. Under the Pacific Mangrove Initiative, IUCN Oceania brings together government agencies, academia, non-government organizations and community representatives from Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu to discuss ways to develop effective management of mangrove ecosystems in each of these countries. Plans were developed for each country to enhance mangrove management with support from the MESCAL project. Critical components of these plans are the review of existing national policies and legislation, as well as traditional community-based management and decision-making processes, that directly or indirectly affect mangroves and their management. This review began in 2011 and is being undertaken by IUCN Oceania's Environmental Law Programme.

Studying the economics of climate change

Economic evaluation is increasingly being recognized as a critical component in decision-making processes for the sustainable management of natural resources, and in the assessment of likely climate change impacts and adaptation responses. In 2011, IUCN Oceania undertook a number of assessments evaluating the key constraints in economic and social decision-making in relation to climate change adaptation across the Pacific. A number of resulting case studies are highlighting the potential economic impacts of sea level rise including the potential needs for relocation, climate proofing of roads and crops, water quality and sanitation. The case studies are contributing to a regional plan prepared by Australia's Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency.

Also in 2011, IUCN Oceania served as a Coordinating Lead Author for Chapter 6, National Systems for managing risks from climate extremes, for the Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) Special Report on Managing Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX). The Summary for Policymakers of the SREX report was released in November 2011, in Kampala, Uganda with the full report due for release in 2012.

Convening forums to inform decisions

As Chair of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (PIRT), IUCN Oceania facilitated regional and national activities for the PIRT's 13 member organizations. Technical support and advice was provided to assist Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea with the implementation of their National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans (NBSAP). Fiji reviewed and launched its NBSAP Implementation Plan for 2011-2015 and Solomon Islands continued to implement its Corporate Plan 2010-2012, which was supported by the PIRT in 2010.

The PIRT is also assisting the Coral Triangle Initiative through an Asian Development Bank supported initiative to strengthen coastal and marine resources management. Initial discussions on regional implementation plans for the project were conducted in 2011 with the governments of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, and Vanuatu, and with partners including the International Food Policy Research Institute and World Fish. This initiative will continue in 2012.



Naturally energizing the future

Ensuring fair and accessible energy solutions remains a priority for the Pacific, particularly in countries where electricity access by rural communities remains low (with less than 10% penetration in some countries). Energy expansion options include biofuels, wind, solar and geothermal sources. However, energy developments need to be carefully planned to avoid negative impacts on the environment and biodiversity. IUCN Oceania supports processes that accelerate the transition to energy systems that are ecologically sustainable, socially equitable, and economically efficient, while making full use of the best available technologies and governance arrangements.

The Pacific regional project - Managing the Ecosystem and Livelihood Implications of Energy Policies in the Pacific Island States (Pacific SIDS – EESLI) - which is generously supported by the Governments of Italy and Austria enables such transitions. The project works in six countries: Palau, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. IUCN Oceania uses lessons learnt from these practical demonstration activities to influence national level decision-making on energy sector development plans and programmes.

Enabling access to clean energy

Many nations in the Pacific are highly dependent on petroleum for their energy services. Most are now looking towards renewable energy to reduce their dependence on oil imports. IUCN Oceania assisted Vanuatu, Tonga and Tuvalu to provide electricity through renewable energy for essential services in remote areas. In Vanuatu, solar systems were installed and existing systems upgraded in 12 schools and 16 health centres on the islands of Santo, Malo and Malekula. This reduced their consumption of diesel fuel and provided important lighting services during non-daylight hours. In Tonga, 64 solar home systems were rehabilitated enabling school children to study at night, women to do mat weaving and other traditional crafts at night and eliminated the use of kerosene for lighting. In Tuvalu, ten solar streetlights were installed at Motufuoua Secondary School, the second largest (by population) secondary school in the country, and enabled a safer working environment for approximately 300 students and teachers at the boarding school.

Reducing energy use in homes and vehicles

While petroleum remains a major source of energy for the Pacific region, there are increasing efforts to reduce consumption by improving efficiency. In Palau, IUCN Oceania worked with the National Development Bank of Palau (NDBP), to promote energy efficiency in newly built homes through an innovative financing scheme. Using a specially designed home loan programme, a total of 31 new energy efficient homes were constructed by the end of 2011. Each new home recorded an estimated 15% reduction in their monthly electricity bills, resulting in increased household disposable income. In 2012, the project will focus on constructing an additional 21 homes. Overall, this innovative programme proved to reduce energy consumption and enhanced local perceptions of energy efficiency.

In Samoa, a similar approach was taken in the land transport sector, where drivers were continually educated on ways to reduce their fuel consumption and encouraged to utilize public transportation on week days to reduce road congestion.

In the Marshall Islands, a total of 689 street lights in the urban centres of Majuro and Ebeye were retrofitted with new energy efficient lights. This investment reduced the cost of electricity for the local utility by 52%.

Ensuring sustainable micro-hydro power development

Renewable energy may have impacts on the environment. IUCN Oceania therefore continues to emphasize the need for sound environmental planning processes for all renewable energy initiatives. In relation to the Government of Vanuatu's construction of the Talise micro-hydro, IUCN Oceania supported the Government of Vanuatu by developing an Environmental Management and Monitoring Plan (EMMP) for the project. The EMMP development was initiated in 2011 and will be completed in the first quarter of 2012. It incorporates environmental considerations in the design, construction and maintenance of the 75kW micro-hydro project that will supply electricity to three communities on Maewo island. This plan will enable all parties involved in the project to ensure that the impacts of this initiative are minimized.

Energy efficient homes attract regional interest

The success of Palau's Energy Efficiency Loan Programme attracted the attention of the Association of Development Financing Institutions in the Pacific (ADFIP), the focal point for development banking in the region. At the 26th Annual Conference in Tuvalu, ADFIP members recognized the importance of encouraging energy efficiency in homes and agreed to incorporate such loan schemes into their regional portfolio. As a result, IUCN Oceania and its partners, including the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, ran a workshop in Palau for 13 members of ADFIP to showcase the operational aspects of the Energy Efficiency Loan Programme.

Improving access to the carbon market

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) provides for emission-reduction initiatives in developing countries to earn Certified Emission Reduction (CER) credits - each equivalent to one tonne of carbon dioxide. These CERs can be traded, sold and used by industrialized countries to meet a part of their emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol. The CDM has been in operation since 2004 and has already registered more than 3400 projects. However, only three projects in the Pacific have met the standards of CDM and have been registered. To enhance CDM investments in the region, IUCN Oceania supported the Government of Fiji, the Risoe Centre of the United Nations Environment Programme and SPREP, to build the capacity of 30 energy and climate change officials from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu in CDM and associated processes. Four training workshops held in 2010 and 2011 enabled better understanding of funding opportunities and processes under the CDM and also provided the basis for further national level engagement in the broader carbon market discussion.





Supporting Tonga's energy roadmap

IUCN Oceania continued to support the development of the Tonga Energy Road Map (TERM) in 2011, and was part of the dialogue process to review its implementation. IUCN Oceania committed to undertaking an environmental screening of the TERM, which will result in a set of recommendations on how the TERM could minimize its environmental foot-print. This commitment will be pursued in 2012.

Exploring biodiesel potential in vehicles

IUCN Oceania assisted the government of Samoa in its pursuit to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by supporting its biodiesel programme. Under this programme Samoa has produced a biodiesel blend (50:50 blend of coconut oil and diesel) and during the past year has been testing the blend on two vehicles. Reports collected throughout the year indicated no negative impacts on the overall running of the vehicles. Consequently, Samoa has extended its biodiesel work and explored the use of Jatropha oil as a biofuel. IUCN Oceania engaged Landcare Research of NZ, also a Member of IUCN, to undertake a "weed risk assessment" on Jatropha. The assessment highlighted no major weed risks of Jatropha if it were to be utilized for a demonstration plantation, but recognized that further assessments would be needed for wide scale planting initiatives and to assess the potential impact on food production.



Managing ecosystems for human well-being

IUCN Oceania continues to support governments to integrate environmental concerns into development strategies in the Pacific Islands region. The concept of acknowledging and maintaining ecosystem goods and services and their role in supporting communities and livelihoods is central to the process of implementing IUCN's commitment to nature conservation and development. The work on the Oceania component of IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) concluded in 2011 and demonstrated that an integrated approach to water management works and is vital for healthy communities. IUCN Oceania worked with the governments of Samoa and Fiji to demonstrate that appropriate management of water resources can improve the resilience of both people and nature to extreme weather and enhance the integrity of surrounding natural ecosystems.

Improving management capacity for the Nadi River basin

Integrated river basin management is essential to minimize the impact of natural disasters. The health status of the Nadi River basin is significant as it is the hub of the country's tourism and sugar cane industry and supports the livelihoods of around 42,000 people. The Nadi Basin Catchment Committee (NBCC) was established in 2010 to manage and guide development in the Nadi basin. The NBCC comprises local landowners, the town council, government representatives and other stakeholders. In 2011, IUCN Oceania provided training to 23 members of the NBCC on the processes required for Environmental Impact Assessments - a requirement for any land-based development under Fiji's *Environment Management Act*. In a second workshop, ten experts from IUCN's Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM) shared experiences on how governance structures at community, division and national levels can improve resilience to future flooding events and how to enhance the incorporation of ecosystem-based management into river basin and mangrove management plans.

Targeting schools to monitor water quality

The IUCN Oceania WANI team worked with communities in the district of Nakasaleka on Kadavu island to restore watershed catchments through a partnership with the University of the South Pacific, an IUCN Member. A District Catchment Committee was established in 2010 to oversee the development of an integrated approach to water management for the catchment. Over 25 district leaders were trained in leadership and management skills, and about 40 villagers trained on the restoration of native forest. In 2011, senior students of Kadavu Provincial School and women from the district were trained to monitor the quality of drinking water. Test results collected by the students indicated significant levels of contamination in water sources supplying water to the school, a direct result of uncontrolled grazing from cattle along the catchment areas. Similar results were found by women who conducted tests in their respective villages. This exercise shed light on poor land-use practices. Consequently, appropriate action plans were developed and incorporated into the Nakasaleka Catchment Management Action Plan and cattle removed from catchment areas. Lessons learnt from this monitoring exercise were shared with a further 12 communities in Nakasaleka.

Restoring ecosystems in Samoa

Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), an IUCN Member, in 2011 continued to enhance the management of Togitogiga catchment with support from the IUCN Oceania WANI. Activities included transferring cattle outside the catchment area, clearance of the flowering vine *Merremia peltata* (an invasive plant), replanting of native species, and community awareness and advocacy. The western side of the Togitogiga catchment was fenced off to prevent further intrusion of cattle and the invasive vine was cleared manually with the assistance of local villagers. Native trees were planted to prevent the growth of vines and enhance the biodiversity value of the site. These ecosystem restoration activities were carried out in line with the management plan to enhance water quality and quantity in the streams that feed into the Togitogiga waterfalls.

New flower species named

Scientists from USP, an IUCN Member, identified a new flower species belonging to the genus *Medinilla* in Kadavu, Fiji, during a biodiversity assessment of Nakasakaleka District's watershed areas in 2010. In 2011 it was named *Medinilla matasawalevu*. The flower is closely related to the Tagimoucia, *Medinilla waterhousei*, the floral emblem of Fiji. Many species in the Pacific Islands are yet to be described and additional efforts need to be put in place to increase recognition and understanding of our island biodiversity

Building capacity to strengthen environmental law enforcement

The lack of effective enforcement of existing environmental laws is a challenge in many Pacific Island countries. In 2011, IUCN Oceania provided training to 24 senior officials from Fiji, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea and Tuvalu, to improve their capacity in the enforcement of environmental laws and regulations. The two pilot 8-day training courses in Fiji and Vanuatu considered both environmental and natural resource legislation, and included customary law and its relationship to the statutory framework. Training was led by specialists from the Australian Centre for Environmental Compliance and IUCN Oceania's Law Programme. Funding was kindly provided by the British High Commission in Suva and the training was delivered in partnership with the USP, an IUCN Member.

IUCN Oceania also worked with the Fiji Environmental Law Association to raise awareness of principles highlighted under the Fiji *Environment Management Act* (2005) with a focus on the processes outlined for Environmental Impact Assessments. This brought together the Department of Environment, local government representatives from six towns and two cities across Fiji, and lawyers from both public and private sectors. The workshop in Suva focused on building the capacity of municipal councils. In Lautoka a first workshop focused on municipal councils in the Western Division and a second workshop aimed to build the capacity of private lawyers.





Greening the world economy

It is imperative that the full value of biodiversity is adequately taken into account in current and future development planning. The challenge for IUCN Oceania is to help Pacific Island countries to integrate ecosystem services and their values into economic policy, finance, and markets, and thereby promote green growth and sustainable development in our region.

The Pacific Regional Environmental Economics Network grows

The Pacific Resource and Environmental Economics Network (PREEN) continued to develop and grow in 2011. IUCN, in partnership with SOPAC and SPC, established PREEN to serve as a professional body to promote and mainstream the use of economics in environmental management in the Pacific region. Peer support is provided through the production of several publications including the network's newsletter, which is released twice a year.

Payment for ecosystem services

Water resources and watershed ecosystem services in many islands across the Pacific are currently being degraded due to changes in land use, modified river flow patterns and poor catchment management. In 2011, IUCN Oceania trained several government agencies in Samoa to understand the principles of payment for ecosystem services (PES) and how it could be incorporated as an incentive for sustainable management of the Togitogiga catchment. Under the PES scheme, communities would be provided regular payments for better catchment management and conservation and restoration of the degraded catchment. Following this training, IUCN Oceania undertook an economic assessment to understand how PES could support the management of the Togitogiga watershed and also benefit the livelihoods of communities. Results from this assessment highlighted that a PES-based system was not likely to be financially viable for the communities given the current number of visitors, their willingness to pay to enjoy the Togitogiga Falls and the cost of managing the falls. A Fiji national economist was also trained to undertake economic evaluation as part of this exercise.

Valuing ecosystem management

Invasive species are a significant threat to fragile island ecosystems. IUCN Oceania produced the economic component of a study on the impacts of invasive species on ecosystem services in the Pacific assisting Landcare Research NZ, an IUCN Member, in their project on Management of Invasive Species in the Pacific.

In addition, IUCN Oceania undertook a study with the USP and IUCN's World Commission on Protected Areas to enhance understanding of the management of coastal zones. This study, due to be published in 2012, will serve as a guide for both university students and resource managers in the Pacific.

Enabling dialogue on green economy

Green Economy is set as one of four themes for the 2012 Earth Summit and has been a focus for environmental, economic and development discussions in the Pacific in the past year. In 2011, IUCN Oceania supported the annual meeting of the PIRT, and brought together more than 60 conservation experts, including the private sector and regional organizations, to discuss ways to support Pacific Island Countries and the region for upcoming discussions at Rio+20. A resulting PIRT resolution called for 'green' changes in Pacific Island economies to support the transition to sustainable economies and was integrated into submissions from the Pacific Island Countries to the World Conference on Sustainable Development.

Our Members

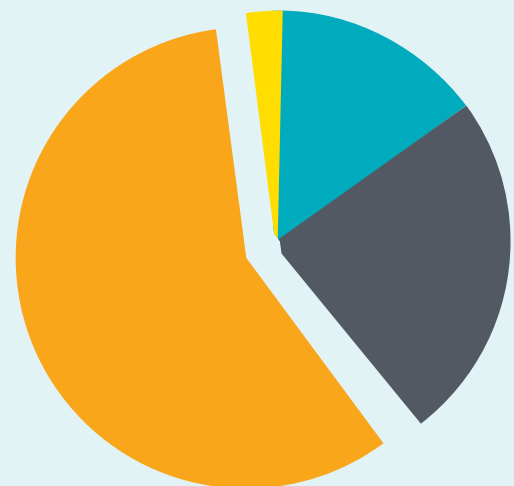
The Oceania Regional Office supports IUCN Members based in the Oceania region. Three organizations joined the Union in 2011 bringing the total number of Oceania Members to 48. This represents about 4% of the global IUCN membership. The new Members welcomed in 2011 were: The Government of Samoa, represented by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Antarctica New Zealand and Te Ipukarea Society (Cook Islands).

Members at the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum

The inter-sessional Programme of Work for 2013-16 will be submitted for approval at IUCN's World Conservation Congress to be held in Korea in September 2012. In preparation for this event, IUCN Members came together in August 2011 at the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum held in Brisbane, Australia, to discuss the proposed regional and global four-year programmes.

This was the largest forum organized for Members, Commission members, Country Committees and Regional Councillors since the establishment of the Regional Office in Suva in 2007. The three day event focused on sharing experiences amongst Members, building partnerships for action, gauging input into the proposed Global and Oceania Regional Programmes for 2013-2016 and preparing for the World Conservation Congress itself. The Oceania Regional Conservation Forum was co-hosted by the Australian Committee of IUCN, the Queensland Department of Environment and Natural Resources and IUCN's Oceania Regional Office.

IUCN Oceania Membership 2011



-  **State**
-  **Government Agencies**
-  **NGOs**
-  **Affiliate**

STATE MEMBERS

Department of Sustainability, Environment, Water, Population and Communities, Australia

Department of Conservation, New Zealand

Department of Environment, Fiji

Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Nauru

Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Solomon Islands

Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Tonga

Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Department of Environment, Climate Change and Water, New South Wales

Department of Environment and Conservation, Western Australia

Department of Sustainability and Environment, Victoria

Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority, Queensland

Department of Natural Resources, Environment, The Arts and Sport, Northern Territory

Parks Victoria

Department of Environment and Resource Management, Queensland

Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service

Department of Environment and Natural Resources, South Australia

Wet Tropics Management Authority, Queensland

New Zealand Conservation Authority

Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd

Antarctica New Zealand

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ORGANIZATION OF MEMBERS IN OCEANIA

Australia National Committee

New Zealand National Committee

Oceania Regional Committee

NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néocalédonienne, New Caledonia

Australian Centre for International and Environmental Law

Australian Conservation Foundation

Australian Marine Conservation Society

Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices Ltd ANEDO

Australian Rainforest Conservation Society

Conservation Volunteers Australia

Environment and Conservation Organizations of New Zealand

Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand

Institute of Foresters of Australia

International Federation of Landscape Architects

Lincoln University, Environmental Management

National Environmental Law Association

National Parks Association of New South Wales

National Parks Australia Council

National Trust of Fiji Islands

Nature Conservation Council of NSW

New Zealand Ecological Society

Project Jonah Australia

Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, New Zealand

Te Ipukarea Society, Cook Islands

Te Mana o te Moana, French Polynesia

The Wilderness Society

Tonga Community Development Trust

University of Canberra, Faculty of Applied Sciences

University of the South Pacific

WWF Australia

WWF New Zealand

IUCN's COMMISSIONS

Out of the 10,000 members of IUCN's six specialized Commissions, approximately 900 are based in Oceania, representing almost 10% of the global Commission membership. This is impressive for a large, but relatively un-populated region, and demonstrates the significant contributions that the region makes towards global and regional conservation issues. Individuals in Oceania are members of all six Commissions:

- Commission on Education and Communication
- Commission on Environmental, Economic, and Social Policy
- Commission on Environmental Law
- Commission on Ecosystem Management
- Species Survival Commission
- World Commission on Protected Areas

Our partners & donors

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Department of Environment, Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development, Housing and Environment, Fiji	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	Secretariat of the Pacific Community	Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd
Fiji Islands Voyaging Society	Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation	South Pacific Tourism Organisation	Fiji Environmental Law Association
Invasive Species Specialist Group, Regional Pacific Office	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Regional Pacific Office
Directorate General for International Cooperation, Netherlands	Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, Japan	Solomon Islands National Museum	Tourism Solomons Limited
Ministry of Mines, Energy and Rural Electrification, Solomon Islands	Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Meteorology, Solomon Islands	Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Tonga	Department of Environment & Conservation, Vanuatu
The WorldFish Centre			

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Acronyms and abbreviations

ACFEC	Australian Centre for Environmental Compliance
ACIUCN	Australian Committee for IUCN
ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific countries
ADFIP	Association of Development Financing Institutions in the Pacific
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CEM	Commission on Ecosystem Management
CEESP	Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy
CEL	Commission on Environmental Law
WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
SSC	Species Survival Commission
CEC	Commission on Education and Communication
CER	Certified Emission Reduction
EU-ACP	Referring to Development Cooperation between the European Union and the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries
ICOMOS	International Council on Monuments and Sites
IPCC	Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change
MESCAL	Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods project
MNRE	Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment , Samoa
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NBCC	Nadi Basin Catchment Committee
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NDBP	National Development Bank of Palau
PES	Payment for Ecosystem Services
PMI	Pacific Mangrove Initiative
PREEN	Pacific Resource and Environmental Economics Network
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPTO	South Pacific Tourism Organisation
SREX	Special Report on Managing Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation
TERM	Tonga Energy Road Map 2010 – 2020
USP	University of the South Pacific
WANI	Water and Nature Initiative



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