

# Nature Matters

Oceania Regional Office  
Annual Report 2013





## **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

### **New investments and partnerships required...**

We ended 2013 co-hosting the Pacific Islands Nature Conservation and Protected Areas Conference with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Government of Fiji. Over 500 stakeholders from across the region met to celebrate successes and develop a strategy to ensure stronger partnerships, innovative approaches and leadership provide the platform for the next 5 years of conservation activities in the Pacific Islands region. A high level panel of leaders released the Laucala Declaration calling for 10 key actions that must be achieved if we are to make a difference with conservation.

Another meeting, another declaration? ...After Rio+20 and the latest climate change reports, it is not looking good for the planet. In the Pacific it is doom and gloom for small islands and coastal communities. Biodiversity, both on land and ocean is also under serious threat. The call for extraordinary measures continues and we do need the big declarations if they can catalyse into action. Pacific Island leaders are taking big steps – shark sanctuaries, large protected area declarations (now in the million square kilometres) as well as community level engagements on conservation areas. These big declarations need new partnerships within government, across sectors and with international players.

We need new investments in conservation if we are to see a significant turnaround by 2020. Pacific Island leaders can start this process by committing our Governments to allocate more to resource management. What can we do with more fisheries officers in rural communities or a ranger scheme to work with communities in managing heritage sites? Integrated approaches to communities where health, education and infrastructure are an “exchange” for better management of the catchments and forests that belong to the community. Big commitments need new ways of doing things and often leadership from Government and communities.

We celebrated with Fiji and other partners the inaugural Pacific Islands Development Forum in Nadi where for the first time big issues can be discussed by all relevant sectors and decisions made on how to deal with this. Another forum? ...or another way to do things when the status quo is not working. Conservation needs innovation and finding effective ways to engage in the development process with the appropriate partners is the way forward.

Our membership in Oceania continues to grow and we have developed a strong team in the regional office. I look forward to building stronger partnerships for conservation in 2014. Vinaka and ‘ofa atu.

**Taholo Kami**  
**Regional Director**  
**IUCN Oceania**

## LOOKING AHEAD



### Looking ahead to the future.

- Opportunities for further IUCN inputs are emerging as a result of growing awareness in the region of our niche and the high quality services we can provide. Our focus will continue to be on augmenting and complementing the activities of our members and partners, and building the institutional capacity of government agencies to address conservation and sustainable resource use challenges.
- We will continue to advance IUCN's core services in conserving and valuing nature, enabling effective and equitable governance of nature's use and facilitating nature-based solutions. In addition we will increase our efforts in promoting sustainable development policies, recognising that addressing economic and social needs through the promotion of 'Green Growth' strategies is the key to achieving biodiversity conservation goals in the region. Our 'Leadership, Green Growth and Sustainability Initiatives' programme will be increasingly important in facilitating dialogue between government, corporates, local communities, non-government conservation organisations and scientific/technical specialists. Taking a lead in identifying novel opportunities and potential synergies and facilitating new Green Growth initiatives can be expected to lead to further exciting, and sustainable, developments.
- We expect further demands for IUCN inputs to an increasing number of collaborative projects with social, economic and environmental objectives, reflecting not only our strong networks in the region and our technical capacity (through our staff, members and partners), but also our recognition of the need for support in developing sustainable development policies.
- Emerging strategic issues where a need for IUCN services have been proposed include resource economics, marine protected areas management (including enforcement), fisheries and biodiversity, seabed mining, biosecurity, tourism and biodiversity, species recovery and ecological restoration (forests, wetlands and islands). The merits of increasing our efforts in these and other thematic areas will be evaluated in discussion with our members and partners.

# OUR PROJECTS

Through our projects we seek to support multilateral environmental agreements, convene critical dialogues, support National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans, coordinate the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation, and work with national and regional partners to advance regional, sub-regional, national and community level conservation agendas. Listed below are large projects managed by IUCN in Oceania. There are also several smaller projects being implemented but are not listed here.

## **Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries (MACBIO) Project**

The MACBIO project aims to improve management of marine and coastal biodiversity in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. Spatial planning and evidence of the economic benefits of marine and coastal biodiversity can strengthen the management of these vital ecosystems. IUCN is working with partners to undertake this work in the participating countries. Outcomes of this project should help these countries meet their commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity Strategic Plan 2011–2020, and relevant Aichi targets, including the Programme of Work on Protected Areas and the Programme of Work on Island Biodiversity. MACBIO is a five year project, launched in 2013, funded by the German Federal Ministry of the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB). Partners in the project are GIZ and the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP).

## **Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) Programme**

BIOPAMA aims to address threats to biodiversity in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, while reducing poverty in communities in and around protected areas. IUCN is implementing components of BIOPAMA in the Pacific region. Activities are centered on capacity building for regional and national institutions, technical personnel, and protected areas managers and improving access and availability of biodiversity data through the establishment of a regional observatory and information systems to improve decision making. Implementation of activities began in 2013 and will end in 2016. The programme is funded by the European Union, through the intra-ACP envelope of the 10th European Development Fund (EDF).

## **Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase 2) Project**

This project aims to improve the resilience of coastal and marine ecosystems to climate change in Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Timor Leste. IUCN's role is focused on two components: strengthening environmental law and establishing learning forums. IUCN is supporting the

establishment and/or operations of national environmental law associations and capacity building of public and private lawyers in environmental and natural resources management law, particularly as they relate to the management of coastal and marine resources. Also, efforts are focused on developing a regional learning forum whereby knowledge on best practices in integrated coastal resources management is shared and promoted. This project began in 2011 and will end in 2014 with funding from the Asian Development Bank.

## **Managing the Ecosystem and Livelihood Implications of Energy Policies in the Pacific Island States (or Pacific SIDS EESLI) Project**

Pacific SIDS EESLI has just entered into the second phase of implementation. The project has been supporting the Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu in the development and implementation of environmentally sustainable energy policies and a number of renewable energy and energy efficiency pilot projects focusing on ecosystem conservation and livelihood enhancement. The overall aim is to enable the selected countries to accelerate their transition to renewable energy and energy efficiency systems that are ecologically efficient, sustainable, and socially equitable. The second phase runs from 2013 to 2014 and is funded by the Directorate General for Development Cooperation (DGCS), Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Austrian Development Cooperation and the Ministère des Affaires étrangères, Direction de la Coopération au Développement, Luxembourg.

## **Mangrove Rehabilitation for Sustainably-Managed Healthy Forests (MARSH) Project**

Mangrove forests in Papua New Guinea make up 75% of the total area of mangroves in the Pacific Islands. Through the MARSH Project, IUCN engages the PNG Government, academic institutions in PNG and other partners to build capacity and strengthen sustainable mangrove management at the local and national levels. Activities have commenced for PNG and will later extend to Vanuatu and Solomon Islands in 2015. The project extends for five years from 2012 and is funded by USAID.



### **Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation & Livelihoods (MESCAL) Project**

Implementation of the MESCAL Project began in 2009 and will be completed in 2014. The goal of the project is to address key challenges of mangrove management to increase the resilience of the Pacific people to climate change and improve livelihoods. IUCN is working with governments, national and regional partners in five Pacific Island Countries (Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga) to implement activities centred on the protection of mangrove ecosystems. Activities have included improvement of baseline knowledge on the biological, economic, social and cultural aspects of mangrove resources. The project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature and Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB) under its International Climate Initiative.

### **Low Carbon Energy Islands Project**

This project was launched in June. Focused in Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu, it aims to change behaviour towards energy use and help people make wise energy choices. Activities extend for three years and are being funded by the Global Environment Facility through the United Nations Environment Programme.

### **Leadership, Green Growth and Sustainability Initiative**

The initiative began in 2011 with the aim to create a strong and effective coalition of Pacific Island leaders in key development sectors who can drive the introduction and implementation of green growth and sustainability principles in policy and decision making in their countries. These leaders and issues identified would shape national/regional activities towards the path towards green economies. The initiative completed implementation of activities this year. Funding for the initiative was provided through the Pacific Leadership Program of Australian AID.

### **Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund - East Melanesian Islands Hotspot**

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a unique global investment programme that focuses on safeguarding prioritized biodiversity hotspots. Its conservation action for East Melanesia will extend for 8 years from 2013 and is guided by a region-specific investment strategy. IUCN Oceania serves as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) providing strategic leadership to convert the investment program into cohesive portfolios of grants. The program consists of a large grant mechanism (of more than USD \$20,000) to be managed by CEPF in collaboration with the RIT and a small grants mechanism (USD \$20,000 or less) managed solely by the RIT.

# OUR WORK - CONSERVING & VALUING NATURE

In the Pacific, we are working to address the direct and indirect pressures on biodiversity, and to ensure that any use of biodiversity is sustainable in order to safeguard ecosystem integrity, species and genetic diversity. Our work aims to address these pressures to reduce the rate of loss of natural habitats (one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss) and biodiversity-rich cultural habitats. Increasing and sharing knowledge regarding the conservation status of species and protected areas in this region is central to our approach. We also support our Members, particularly State and Government, in policy development and convening of critical information sharing and decision making platforms so that the immense value of nature is understood and recognized at all levels.

## Conservation status of fishes, snails and reptiles

In 2013, IUCN published a summary report on the conservation status of 167 freshwater fishes, 166 land snails and 157 reptiles native to the Islands of Micronesia, Polynesia and Melanesia. The report confirms that almost a third of these species are threatened with extinction at the global level with land snails being the most highly threatened group. Furthermore habitat loss and invasive species are the most serious threats for all groups assessed. A lack of information available on freshwater fish species, a quarter of assessed species endemic to single countries, is worth noting. The assessments also highlight the need to impose strict legislations regarding invasive species and sustainable biological resource use. This is the first regional assessment in accordance with the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria and was made possible with financial support from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund and Fonds Pacifique. These Red List assessments can help decision-makers develop suitable policies and plans to manage the identified threatened species and protect and value Pacific Island biodiversity. Experts are working towards replicating this work for other taxonomic groups.

## New mangrove records confirmed

*Sonneratia X gulngai*, a hybrid mangrove species, was first found in Vanuatu in 2012 during a field survey conducted as part of IUCN's MESCAL project. Mangrove Specialist, Dr. Norman Duke confirmed its identification this year. The discovery increases the total number of mangrove species in Vanuatu to 24; eight discovered so far through the MESCAL project, since 2009. In Samoa the development of a national mangrove database, including maps, led to the discovery of 60 new mangrove sites, 20 discovered in 2012, increasing the national record to 78 known sites.

## Fiji's first mangroves and seagrass guide

The first field guide for Fiji's mangroves and seagrasses was launched in July by the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Mr. Tevita Boseiwaqa,

marking another breakthrough for the conservation of biodiversity in the country. This resource is important given that most Fijians live on the coast and rely on mangrove and seagrass ecosystems. The 75 page field guide provides photographs and information such as local names, uses, and distribution, of the twelve species of mangrove and mangrove associates six seagrass species. Identification is made easier by an easy-to-follow dichotomous key which assists users in correctly identifying species.

## Eyes on species in Bangkok

The 16th meeting of the Conference of the Parties to CITES, the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species was held in Bangkok in March 2013. Representatives of all eight Oceania CITES Parties (Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu) attended, as well as non-Parties - Tonga and Kiribati. IUCN Oceania's Species Officer, Helen Pippard, attended as part of the Fiji Government's delegation, acting as an advisor to offer clear and objective advice on conference agenda items. Significant outcomes for Oceania included the record number of positive decisions relating to marine species. Parties voted to regulate the international trade in the Oceanic Whitetip Shark, three species of hammerhead shark, the Porbeagle shark and two species of manta rays. IUCN Oceania will continue to work with regional Parties and relevant regional organizations such as SPC and SPREP in order to ensure that CITES obligations are met, and that Pacific species do not become threatened with extinction as a result of international trade.

## East Rennell declared World Heritage in danger

Solomon Islands' East Rennell was declared a World Heritage Site in 1998. It is the largest raised coral atoll in the world with a dense forest canopy averaging 20 metres in height. The World Heritage site makes up the south-eastern half of Rennell Island, the southernmost island in the Solomons Group in the western Pacific. Ongoing logging on the western part of Rennell Island, only 12 km from the World Heritage





site, represents a critical threat to the ecology of the World Heritage Site. Other threats include the reported incursion of invasive rats and over-harvesting of marine resources. This year, East Rennell was added to the List of World Heritage in Danger following IUCN's advice as the official World Heritage advisory body on nature. IUCN is advising the Solomon Islands Government, a State Member of IUCN, in its preparation of an emergency action plan and in undertaking an urgent study on the impacts of logging on the Island. Furthermore IUCN's role as the Regional Implementation Team for the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund East Melanesia Islands Hotspot project we have supported a proposal by a non-government organisation to work with local communities to develop appropriate governance procedures and structures for the World Heritage Site.

#### Scoping out next steps for protected areas

In February, IUCN officially launched regional activities under the Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme (BIOPAMA), building on the groundwork conducted in preceding years. This launch set the context and priorities for delivery of the project in the region. Throughout the year the profile of the project was raised through a number of initiatives aiming to engage with key stakeholders in the conservation sector. These included, workshops convened as part of the Convention on Biological Diversity, the UNESCO Pacific World Heritage and the 9th Pacific Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, held in Suva in December. IUCN also initiated further partnerships with organisations with interests in participating in project activities. An expression of interest to host a Regional Observatory for Protected Areas and Biodiversity was advertised in December. The observatory will collect

and hold relevant national and regional data on biodiversity, its pressures and threats. Considerable effort was also put into making the project visible through the launching and updating of the 'www.biopama.org' website, regular inter-regional communication amongst project implementers and the use of regionally tailored communications materials to promote the programme.

#### Protecting ecosystems in the East Melanesia Islands hotspot

In July, IUCN began an eight year partnership with the Critical Ecosystems Partnership Fund (CEPF) to administer a grant scheme focused on the East Melanesia Islands Hotspot. This hotspot hosts a number of endemic species including 3,000 vascular plants, 41 mammals, 148 birds and 54 reptiles' and is a priority area for terrestrial conservation. The CEPF's USD \$9million investment focusing on Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and the islands region of Papua New Guinea will help conserve the rich, natural wealth of the area and its many benefits to the local people. IUCN will oversee projects aimed at conservation in 20 key biodiversity areas, within the hotspot, covering a total area of 1.5 million hectares. Central to the sustainability strategy of the CEPF investment is the focus on capacity building for local and national civil society organizations through partnerships, networks and mentoring. A first call for proposals was announced in August and attracted more than 60 proposals, 31 of which were found to meet the criteria of the call and progressed for further review.

#### Pacific nature conference draws hundreds

IUCN's participation at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas held in Fiji in December was of paramount importance as it presented



the opportunity for us to help shape conservation work in the region for the next five years. It was hosted by the Government of Fiji, an IUCN State Member, and gathered more than 600 delegates from the conservation community, academia, government and non-government agencies, development partners, international organizations and local communities across the region and beyond. IUCN Oceania's Regional Director, Mr Taholo Kami, was reappointed during the conference for a second term as Chair of the Pacific Islands Roundtable on Nature Conservation. The declaration of 'Ten Key Actions' for conservation was a major highlight. The Key Actions are agreed measures that will be undertaken by Pacific Island Countries and Territories, and partners, to deliver on the region's conservation commitments by 2020. High level representatives from governments, the private sector and civil society, including the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, the Honourable Henry Puna expressed their support for the Key Actions, which covers critical areas such as ecosystem-based adaptation, food security, invasive species management, capacity development, long-term financial mechanisms and private sector engagement. The Attorney-General for the Fiji Government, Mr Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum also announced that Fiji would host a follow-up meeting in July 2014 at which responsibilities, actions and progress towards the Key Actions will be discussed.

#### **The value of working together**

Being a Union, IUCN attests to the immense value in working together for effective conservation outcomes. IUCN welcomed the renewed partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, a regional agency that has been working in the region since 1947 and helping Pacific

Islands achieve sustainable development. Memorandums of Understanding were also signed with the Department of Environment and Conservation in Papua New Guinea which is responsible for the protection and management of PNG's diverse natural resources, Griffith University, one of Australia's most innovative and influential universities and the Government of the Republic of Palau, a key driver of the Micronesia Challenge launched in 2005. IUCN's work with these institutions will allow engagement on various levels in addressing critical areas such as climate change, sustainable resource management, community engagement and green growth development. Partnerships such as these have provided IUCN opportunities to engage our national, regional and global networks, and to extend our inputs and support to national and regional initiatives.

#### **Oceania's state of conservation**

Working with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme, IUCN coordinated an assessment of the state of conservation in Oceania. Nine other organizations and consultants also contributed to this assessment. Using the 'Pressure – State- Response' model, natural assets and conservation activities were described in 22 country reports and summarised in regional synthesis and compilation reports. Conclusions and recommendations from the draft regional synthesis report were presented at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in December 2013 (see above). Following further inputs from countries it is anticipated that these reports will constitute a valuable resource and benchmark for monitoring future changes.

## OUR WORK - GOVERNANCE OF NATURE'S USE

Governance of natural resources is shaped by the norms, institutions and processes that determine how power and responsibilities over the resource are exercised, how decisions are taken and how men, women, youth and children participate in the management of natural resources. In the Pacific Island Countries, where customary law plays an important role in biodiversity conservation and natural resources management, good governance importantly necessitates establishing a coherent system connecting and harmonizing traditional and statutory governance. Our work here revolves around building capacity and advocating good environmental governance. We also aim to improve the understanding and value of ecosystem services to help communities and countries adapt effectively for longer-term sustainability.

### Shaping national and regional plans

National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) are the principal instruments for implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity at the national level and are key documents regarding sustainable development. This year IUCN supported the Fiji Government to review its existing NBSAP Implementation Framework (2010 - 2014) by providing advice on partnerships, direction and implementation approaches. Fiji's efforts to update its NBSAP and Implementation Framework are commendable as most countries in the Pacific Islands have yet to follow suit. IUCN was also part of the team that reviewed Fiji's NBSAP in 2010.

At the regional level, IUCN helped plan and facilitate the inaugural Pacific Islands Development Forum, held in Fiji from 5-7 August. The Forum is seen to be the regions most inclusive and highest participatory platform for action on green economy and a bold attempt to address the issues of sustainable development through a structured and inclusive approach. It attracted more than 300 stakeholders from more than 40 countries, 14 of them from the Pacific. Participants included several Heads of State, Heads of Government, ministers and deputies, ambassadors, chief executive officers and Civil Society leaders. Discussions focused on how to promote the integration of the three pillars of sustainable development to ensure that policies and initiatives are benefiting all members of society. The Forum concluded by declaring "10 things" or priority areas that must be addressed to achieve Green-Blue Economies. These include sustainable transport and leadership.

### Economic valuations of coastal ecosystems

Economic evaluations of mangrove ecosystem services in Samoa and Vanuatu were conducted as part of activities of the Mangrove Ecosystems for Climate Change Adaptation and Livelihoods (MESCAL) project. The assessments focused on Safata District in Samoa and two locations in

Vanuatu: Crab Bay (Malekula Island) and Eratap (Efate Island) – all demonstration sites for the MESCAL project. Findings indicate that carbon sequestration and coastal protection are the main contributors to the economic value of the mangrove forests in both countries, with minor contributors being subsistence and commercial fishing, wood extraction, tourism, water purification and sediment capture. The reports indicate that ecosystem services of mangroves in Safata are valued at approximately US\$ 57,750 per hectare per year and approximately US\$ 4,300 and US\$ 8,500 per hectare per year at the two sites in Vanuatu. This information allows for the rational comparison of the economic return from any development affecting mangroves against the loss of the economic value of the mangrove ecosystem.

Future economic evaluation work is expected to be conducted through the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries and Atolls (MACBIO) project, launched this year. The MACBIO project aims to improve management of marine and coastal biodiversity in Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. IUCN's roles relate mainly to coordinating economic assessments of marine ecosystem services using 'The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity' (TEEB) approach. A resource economist is coordinating TEEB studies in each of the participating countries. It is anticipated that these economic assessments will be valuable in supporting resource use decisions in these countries. In addition IUCN is coordinating efforts in marine spatial planning in participating countries. A spatial planning specialist has been engaged to lead planning activities. An early step has been a focus on identifying existing data sources related to marine protected areas. It is hoped that as the project evolves important opportunities for linkages and synergies with other projects directed at conserving marine and coastal resources will emerge.

### Policy and legislation checks

The review of policies and legislation concerning mangroves in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga was completed this year. The reviews for each country identified legislative and policy gaps to strengthen management and conservation of national mangrove ecosystems. This task began in 2011 through the MESCAL project. The success of the reviews has been attributed to the collaborative efforts between IUCN and the various government and non-government agencies involved. Knowledge products arising from the reviews are: the National Mangrove Management Plan and the Legal Policy review report for Fiji, the review report and the co-management plan for Sefata in Samoa, review reports for Solomon Islands and Tonga, and the registration of Amal-Krab Bay Taboo Eria under the Environmental Protection Conservation Act for Vanuatu. As a result of the review in Vanuatu, the government is keen to develop mangrove management legislation. We helped initiate the process by assisting the development of a guide for the drafting of the legislation.

In the Cook Islands, IUCN facilitated a legal review, with support from Global Blue, as part of efforts to zone and legally designate the proposed Cook Islands Marine Park; declared in 2012 by the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, the Honourable Henry Puna. The exercise involved an analysis of issues and options for the legal designation, establishment, design and management of the marine park. It also looked at traditional management systems including ra'ui and atinga and the options for their integration within the marine park framework. Dr. Justin Rose who is a member of IUCN's Commission on Environmental Law and Janet Maki, a local Cook Islands lawyer with extensive experience in Cook Islands traditional and customary law provided valuable expertise in the review.

Findings of this review will be presented to the Steering Committee of the Marine Park and help them make informed decisions on next steps. The Government of Cook Islands hopes that the 1.1 million km<sup>2</sup> marine park will be legally designated by 2015. It encompasses the southern group of the Cook Islands and covers a range of rich, diverse coral reef habitats and associated ecosystems.

### Enhancing national governance entities

IUCN is helping to shape environmental law associations in three Pacific Island Countries, aiming to protect the environment and support sustainable resource management through law. This work began in 2008 and led to the establishment of the Fiji Environmental Law Association (FELA) in 2009. Because of FELA's success, plans and activities were put into motion to replicate the process in Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu and Solomon Islands. This year, an Environmental Law Working Group was constituted in Papua

New Guinea, mandated to formally establish the Papua New Guinea Environmental Law Association and the development of a national capacity development programme. Similarly, the Solomon Islands Environmental Law Association (SIELA) Task Force has been established and includes members of the private law profession, the judiciary, government agencies and non-government organizations. Environmental legal officers at IUCN Oceania are already working with the Task Force to articulate the operations of SIELA and finalize the drafting of its constitution. In Vanuatu, IUCN assisted lawyers to use lessons learnt from the formulation of FELA to finalize the constitution of the Vanuatu Environmental Law Association.

### Teaching and learning

Concerns for a general lack of awareness for legal environmental issues amongst the legal profession in many Pacific Island Countries, prompts IUCN's environmental law team to raise the profile of environmental law as much as possible. Working with FELA, IUCN contributed to the delivery of their Continuing Legal Education Seminars focused in central and western Fiji. On three occasions, Senior Environmental Legal Officer, Patricia Parkinson, presented on emerging developments in international environmental law, namely the Nagoya Protocol on access to genetic resources and benefit sharing and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation, forest Degradation, and enhancing carbon stocks (REDD+), and their benefits to biodiversity conservation in Fiji. On 21-22 February, she presented key findings of a review of policies, legislation and literature on Integrated Coastal Management in Fiji and internationally, conducted in 2012, at the National Learning Symposium on Integrated Coastal Management for Fiji. This research also formed the basis for developing a set of three Regulatory Roadmaps for ICM targeting respectively the decision-makers, developers and communities.

In November, the inaugural South Pacific Lawyer's Conference, held in Vanuatu, presented the opportunity for IUCN and the Environmental Law Programme of the University of the South Pacific, an IUCN Member, to collaborate and promote the merits of establishing national environmental law associations and ocean governance. Discussions extended to the creation of a Pacific Network for Environmental Law, amongst representatives of established and emerging environmental law associations in Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and PNG and organizations working on environmental law in the region (including NSW Environmental Defenders Office, SPREP, GIZ/ABS Capacity Development Initiative, Natural Justice, IUCN Australian Committee, and USP Environmental Law Programme), at the 9th Pacific Islands Conference on Nature Conservation and Protected Areas held in December in Fiji.

# OUR WORK - NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS TO GLOBAL CHALLENGES

Nature-based solutions deliver clear biodiversity benefits in terms of diverse, well-managed and functioning ecosystems. They also provide effective solutions to major global challenges. IUCN recognizes that sustainable economies will need to deploy nature-based solutions to deal with the challenges of climate change mitigation and adaptation, ensuring food security, and sustaining green development. Our focus in this area encompasses a set of interconnected issues important to maintaining ecosystem service benefits from biodiversity: good management practises of ecosystems, economics of ecosystems and biodiversity, renewable energy and energy efficiency and integration of green growth approaches in economic sectors.

## A strategy to protect

The Kovi/Kongulai catchment is an important potential water source for the 60,000 people that live in Honiara; the capital city of Solomon Islands. Keeping this ecosystem healthy is critical for the local people, the biodiversity and the nation's economy. Beginning in 2012, IUCN began the process to develop an eco-tourism strategy for this catchment area; an income incentive for the land owning communities. Following a biodiversity assessment and stakeholder consultations with all stakeholders, including the Government of Solomon Islands and the Applied Geoscience and Technology Division (SOPAC) of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the strategy was completed and presented to the relevant government agencies for implementation. IUCN also provided expertise in the development of proposals to further the conservation work being done for the catchment area. Our work in the Kovi/Kongulai catchment was funded by the Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund with GEF's Integrated Water Resource Management Project implemented by SOPAC/SPC as a primary partner.

## Mangrove plans roll out in PNG

The Mangrove Rehabilitation for Sustainably Managed, Healthy Forests (MARSH) project was launched in Papua New Guinea in March by U.S. Ambassador Walter E. North. Funded by USAID and led by IUCN Oceania, this five year project aims to restore mangrove forests and to build capacity in local communities and universities in Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. Progress in Papua New Guinea has included the signing of six agreements with local and international partners for implementation of activities. 33 sites have been identified within the five project provinces and awareness raising activities have begun including a 25-day Marine Field Course for three and four-year students in Kavieng, West New Britain. Plans for a mangrove carbon assessment course are underway for implementation in 2014.

## Carbon stock assessment for Fiji

Working with the Department of Forestry and the American based Watershed Professionals Network IUCN conducted

the first baseline carbon stock assessment of mangrove soil in Fiji. The assessment was conducted in the Rewa Delta in South eastern Viti Levu, which contains the largest mangrove ecosystem complex in the country. Reference level carbon emissions for major habitat types were obtained. Results indicate that Fiji's carbon stock is almost similar to that of the Sundarban in Bangladesh, one of the largest intact mangrove ecosystems in the world, thus hinting at the immense value in keeping this mangrove ecosystem intact. Furthermore, results prove that soil carbon stock is higher and emissions lower in intact forests compared to forests that are being cut and removed. The assessment also allowed for the training of local Department of Forestry personnel on the implementation of rapid carbon stock assessments. This training followed the MRV (Measurement, Reporting, Verification) of the REDD+ process and the National Forest Monitoring System. The trained personnel went on to train local counterparts in the Solomon Islands a few months later. One of the recommendations from this assessment is that for every hectare of mangrove removed, between 2 and 3 hectares of additional mangroves would need to be either restored or permanently conserved in order to offset emissions. Assessments such as this are important and will eventually form a baseline for national-level carbon emissions to be set and will assist in quantifying the roles that mangroves play in a REDD+ strategy.

## Fiji's mangrove campaign

A joint six-month national mangrove campaign between IUCN Oceania, and IUCN Members - WWF and the Fiji Government, was launched in April. The campaign, themed My Mangrove, My livelihood, targeted coastal communities and provided information on the multiple benefits of mangroves such as the prevention of coastal erosion and the importance of mangrove areas as fish breeding sites. The campaign also drew attention to the signing of a petition calling for the protection of mangrove forests in Fiji. The petition request was made to members of the public to support the setup of Mangrove Protected Priority Areas and a National Mangrove Policy. The petition will complement the development of the



recently reviewed National Mangrove Management Plan, a draft of which is to be endorsed by the National Mangrove Management Committee and the National Environment Council before being tabled before cabinet in 2014. A highlight from the campaign was the ban on cutting of mangroves declared and to be enforced by the people of Nailaga in the District of Ba on Viti Levu. The ban complements the aim to develop a 20 year district development plan for Nailaga currently supported by WWF South Pacific.

#### **Oceania Centre for Sustainable Transport launched**

The University of the South Pacific (USP) and IUCN joined forces to launch an Oceania Centre for Sustainable Transport in December. For a number of years, IUCN and USP have campaigned for the need for sustainable sea transport in an ocean of islands where fuel is expensive and island transport is often inadequate. The development of sustainable sea transport will reduce the reliance on imported expensive fuel and thus open up sea routes that today are considered unprofitable for service. This will greatly contribute to the economic development of communities who could access markets with products such as copra, seaweed, handicrafts and even fruits and vegetables. The Oceania Centre for Sustainable Transport will promote and support sustainability in air, land and sea transport, initially focusing on sea transport, where, it is felt the need is greatest. IUCN Oceania and the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development will run the Centre with the hope that others with an interest in sustainable transport will join over time.

#### **Reviving conservation commitments**

The Ha'apai Multiple Use Conservation Area was declared more than a decade ago by the government of Tonga. The area is approximately 10,000 km<sup>2</sup> with 62 islands and a population of about 10,000 people occupying 17 islands.

Since the declaration, conservation and climate change activities have been undertaken by government and other partners, albeit uncoordinated. In the spirit of inclusiveness and unity, IUCN Oceania, together with the Tonga National Leadership Development Forum and the Civil Society Forum of Tonga initiated discussions and taken steps to define activities and plan relevant approaches for implementation over the next 10 years within the conservation area. These discussions led to the development of a Green Growth Plan for Ha'apai which was endorsed by the Crown Prince and dignitaries of government and civil society. It is hoped that the Plan will serve as a blue print for a national green growth dialogue and a process which may be replicated elsewhere in Tonga.

#### **Accessing policy makers**

Discussions and building of group consensus is part and parcel of the Pacific culture. In some countries, however, modern government mechanisms have meant this may only occur at grass roots level, with little or no direct access to national development plans. Given the environmental and social challenges facing the people of the Pacific, there is a call for a united Pacific voice and recognition of the need for a more inclusive mechanism to create a sustainable region. Using the 'talanoa' approach (open discussion) practised by Pacific Islanders, IUCN delivered policy advice and technical support on sustainable development issues, particularly for the environment and climate change sectors, at the national and sub-regional levels.

The Green Growth Leadership Coalition is one such dialogue or 'talanoa' space promoted by IUCN Oceania. It was formed in 2012 to facilitate cross-sectoral high-level discussions amongst key Pacific leaders. The Coalition met twice in 2013 and supported country specific 'talanoa' forums.



One of these was the Solomon Islands Prime Minister's Roundtable, which was held twice in the same year and focussed on national priorities pertaining to development, society, the environment, agriculture, water and energy. This multi-stakeholder dialogue, supported by IUCN Oceania and GIZ brought together key leaders in government, the private sector, communities and resource owners to rethink the "development path" and to project how the Solomon Islands can own a development path that is inclusive and sustainable in the medium to long term. Through these dialogues several important concerns were identified for further action. These include the establishment of a national consultative process around national priority areas, the need for consultation on a national mining policy and review of the current Mines and Minerals Act, and the need to establish private-public partnerships to develop a water resources strategy. Outcomes of both roundtables will be integrated into a review of Solomon Islands' National Development Strategy in 2014.

In Vanuatu, IUCN collaborated with the Prime Minister's Office and the Melanesia Spearhead Group to launch consultations for the Vanuatu Development Plan Vision (VDPV). The process, which will be completed in 2014, includes provincial and national cross sector consultations, convening of the National Development Forum and the submission of the VDPV to parliament. This work is supported by GIZ.

Similar work is being undertaken in Papua New Guinea where IUCN is working closely with the government and helping facilitate discussions for the review of the medium term development and strategic plan.

#### **Attracting local engagement in energy market**

The Low Carbon Islands project was launched in June by IUCN Oceania, the United Nations Environment Programme and the Global Environment Facility, with activities commencing with an inception workshop in Niue. The project aims to encourage households in Nauru, Niue and Tuvalu, countries with the smallest economies in the region, to be active participants in their energy markets. The project has three components. The first is to review the strategic direction for the energy sector, identifying cost-effective and practical options, and building partnerships. The second component involves financial incentives, to motivate participation in the market for renewables and energy-efficient equipment. The third and final component addresses issues of sustainability, through capacity building and knowledge sharing that will maximise the benefits of the financial incentives.

#### **Nature's voice in energy matters**

In the past, environmental concerns have often been minimally regarded in energy related matters in Pacific Island countries. Today, the situation is changing as governments and concerned parties are becoming more perceptive about the links between energy and biodiversity. IUCN continues to voice nature's "value-adding" benefits across the region. This year the governments of Fiji and Solomon Islands reviewed their national energy policies. With lessons learnt from our six pilot projects in the region, IUCN Oceania emphasised the need for caution and investment in efficiency as an option to reduce fuel imports.

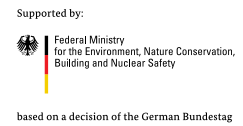
# OUR PARTNERS

IUCN Oceania would like to acknowledge all partners and donors who contributed towards achieving our goals and the Union's vision and mission through their generous support and partnership during 2013.

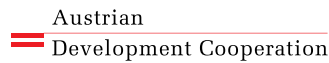
Directorate General for Development Cooperation, Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety, Germany



Austrian Development Cooperation



Pacific Leadership Program – Australian AID



Ministere des Affaires étrangères, Direction de la Coopération au Développement, Luxembourg



Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit



Global Environment Facility



United Nations Economic, Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific – Pacific Operations Centre



United Nations Environment Programme



Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme



Frankfurt School of Finance and Management

Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund



U.S. Agency for International Development



Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund



European Commission



Regional Environment Office for the Pacific, US Department of State, US Embassy



Asian Development Bank



Global Blue





## OUR PEOPLE

### Organizational development

To help us fulfil our goals and strengthen our impacts, we filled critical positions within the office throughout the year.

On 11 March, we were pleased to welcome Alan Saunders as our Regional Programme Coordinator. He comes with 40 years of experience having worked in wildlife and habitat conservation starting with the NZ Wildlife Service, and then the Department of Conservation. After six years with the Pacific Invasives Initiative, based at the University of Auckland, Alan took up the position of Manager of Invasive Species International, with Landcare Research based in Hamilton where he spent four and a half years, with a continued focus in the Pacific. He is a strong advocate for island restoration, and biodiversity conservation. His primary role at IUCN will be to oversee the implementation of the IUCN Oceania regional programme.

In February, Mark Borg joined us as Strategic Partnerships, Membership and Project Development Advisor. Mark is from Malta and has been living in the Pacific for the last 19 years. His background includes a wide experience in environmental education, governance and working with a number of international organizations including the United Nations Observation Mission in South Africa. Mark's role involves overseeing our project and partnerships portfolio.

Maily Cartlamy joined us in April as Legal Intern under our Environmental Law Programme. Maily was pursuing a Master's degree in International Environmental Law in France and was with us for six months. During her time she assisted with project developments, including research on legal developments under Access and Benefit Sharing and drafting of guides on Integrated Coastal Management institutional and regulatory roadmaps for Fiji.

In May, we welcomed Dr. Sangeeta Mangubhai as Senior Marine Programme Officer. Sangeeta is well-known for her extensive experience in science and environmental management from Indonesia, the South Pacific, East Africa and Australia. In her role she coordinates activities for the MACBIO project (see page 5).

In August, Maria-Goreti Muavesi joined as Environmental Legal Officer. Maria has been practising law for over eight years specifically in the environmental law field but also practising in the commercial and property law areas. She was instrumental in setting up Fiji's Environmental Law Association in 2010 and prior to working for IUCN she worked for Howards Lawyers as a Senior Associate managing the environmental law practice of the firm. In her role she assists the Senior Environmental Legal Officer in the delivery of the Environmental Law Programme activities.

In September, we were pleased to welcome Tony O'Keeffe as Protected Areas Coordinator for the BIOPAMA Project (see page 5). Tony comes with 25 years of experience in conservation management. In his role he coordinates the collaborative implementation of activities in protected areas specifically on the development of regionally tailored capacity building programmes and the establishment of a centre for protected areas and biodiversity for the Pacific. He started his first few months drafting a work plan in collaboration with key stakeholders and the international research centre partners.

In November, Jacob Salcone joined us as Technical Officer for the MACBIO Project (see page 5). He is a resource economist with experiences in the food security and energy efficiency sectors in the United States. His specialist role in resource economics and sustainable development is valuable to for the project and to the region where there are only a handful of trained resource economists.

Throughout the year we also welcomed several people to fill positions in our corporate services sections. In March, Liliانا Rakanace joined us as Office Janitor. In April, Dipika Singh came on board as Project Accountant and Dolli Kumar as Finance Assistant. In August, Pataleone Waqaliva became the Human Resources Officer. In October Ruci Botei joined us as Executive Officer to the Regional Director and later also transitioned into Membership Focal Point.

### Remembering one of our own

In December, our team was shocked to learn of the demise of one of our own. Mrs Laniana Bainimua, our janitress left us on 29 December after being ill for several months. La was one of the few who joined the regional office a year after its establishment in 2007. She looked after two office buildings and often assisted our admin team. La was a valuable member of our operations team, having worked with us for six years, and her absence has been felt by everyone who knew her.

La is survived by her three year old daughter and husband. She is sadly missed by the IUCN Oceania family and friends.



Staff of 2013



Taholo Kami



Alan Saunders



Anare Matakiviti



Anjani Gosai



Bernard O'Callaghan



David Raj



Dipika Singh



Epeli Nakautoga



Eric Verheij



Etika Rupeni



Fipe Tuitubou



Feiloakitau Tevi



Helen Pippard



Ifereimi Dau



Jacob Salcone



Larissa Brisbane



Liliana Rakanace



Luisa Tagicakibau



Mark Borg



Maria-Goreti Muavesi



Mesake Tuvakarau



Milika Sobey



Nawaia Matia



Onassis Dame



Pataleone Waqaliva



Patricia Parkinson



Ruci Lumelume



Sangeeta Kumar



Savenaca Kalokalo



Sangeeta Mangubhai



Salote Sauturaga-Rinakama



Seruwaia Qimaqima



Shelly Lata



Tony O'Keefe



Ulamila Bulamaibau



Viliame Waqalevu

Photograph unavailable:  
Maily's Cartiamy

## OUR MEMBERS

IUCN Oceania supports IUCN Members based in the Oceania region. In 2013, we welcomed the Tenkile Conservation Alliance to the Union, bringing the total number of Oceania Members to 51. This represents approximately 4% of the global IUCN membership.

### STATE MEMBERS

Department of the Environment, Australia  
 Department of Conservation, New Zealand  
 Department of Environment, Fiji  
 Department of Commerce, Industry and Environment, Nauru  
 Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Islands  
 Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Tonga  
 Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Samoa  
 Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, Vanuatu

### GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Office of Environment and Heritage, New South Wales  
 Department of Parks and Wildlife, Western Australia  
 Department of Environment and Primary Industries, Victoria  
 Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority  
 Department of Land Resource Management, Northern Territory  
 Parks Victoria  
 Department of Environment and Heritage Protection, Queensland  
 Queensland Parks and Wildlife Service  
 Department of Environment, Water and Natural Resources, South Australia  
 Wet Tropics Management Authority  
 New Zealand Conservation Authority  
 Landcare Research New Zealand Ltd  
 Antarctica New Zealand

### NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

Association pour la Sauvegarde de la Nature Néo-Calédonienne, New Caledonia  
 Australian Conservation Foundation  
 Australian Marine Conservation Society  
 Australian Network of Environmental Defender's Offices Ltd  
 Australian Rainforest Conservation Society  
 Conservation Volunteers Australia  
 Environment and Conservation Organizations of Aotearoa New Zealand  
 Environment Institute of Australia and New Zealand  
 Institute of Foresters of Australia  
 International Federation of Landscape Architects, New Zealand  
 Lincoln University, Faculty of Environment, Society and Design  
 Macquarie University Centre for Environmental Law, Australia  
 National Environmental Law Association, Australia  
 National Parks Association of New South Wales  
 National Parks Australia Council  
 National Trust of Fiji Islands  
 Nature Conservation Council of NSW  
 North Australian Indigenous Land and Sea Management Alliance Limited  
 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  
 School of Resource, Environmental and Heritage Sciences, University of Canberra  
 University of the South Pacific  
 WWF Australia  
 WWF New Zealand

### AFFILIATES

Direction de l'environnement de la province Sud, New Caledonia

# OUR COUNCIL

The IUCN Council is the principal governing body of IUCN in between sessions of the World Conservation Congress - the general assembly of the Union's members. Subject to the authority, direction and policy of the IUCN World Conservation Congress, the role of the IUCN Council is to set strategic direction and policy guidance for the work of the Union, provide oversight and guidance on the performance of the components of the Union as a whole and of the Director General in particular, fulfil its fiduciary responsibilities to the Members of the Union and render account to them, and support the Director General in communicating IUCN's objectives, policy and Programme to the world community.

The 2012-2016 Council is composed of the President, four Vice Presidents, the treasurer, the Chairs of IUCN's six Commissions, three Regional Councillors from each of IUCN's eight Statutory Regions (Africa; Meso and South America; North America and the Caribbean; South and East Asia; West Asia; Oceania; East Europe, North and Central Asia; and West Europe) and a Councillor from the State in which IUCN has its seat (Switzerland).

## Regional Councillors in Oceania

### 1. Andrew Bignell, New Zealand

Current employment and/or position/title:  
Manager International, Department of Conservation,  
Wellington, New Zealand

#### Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:

My career has focussed on natural resources management, particularly National Park and other terrestrial and marine protected areas management. I have undertaken roles in research, planning and governance of protected areas, with particular focus on New Zealand and the Pacific. I have been a senior member of the Department of Conservation for many years and have had active engagement in departmental governance and the whole of Government activity. Currently I am responsible for the Department's engagement in international activities with responsibility for strategic relationships. I am a member of the CBD COP Bureau. Within the Pacific I have participated in the work of inter-governmental organizations, the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation (an NGO/Government alliance) and participated in the formation and work of the IUCN Oceania Regional Committee. I am a member of the World Commission on Protected Areas and Chair of the New Zealand Committee of IUCN Members.

My passion is to have a world in which people can live with dignity and in harmony with nature. I seek to achieve this through influencing the policy settings of Governments at national, regional and global levels. In doing this I also work with NGOs and civil society as they have a vital role to play. My experience in protected area establishment and management, and land and marine management bring together the elements needed to achieve the IUCN Vision. I have worked at national, regional and global scales. The challenge for IUCN is to retain relevance in a changing world. Over its 60 year history the Union has changed while retaining its core focus of seeking to conserve nature in a changing world. I will continue to guide that change within the mandate set by Congress. I especially want the Union to be the world's respected, independent authority on matters of nature conservation and people's engagement with nature.

### 2. Brendan Mackey, Australia

Current employment and/or position/title:  
Professor and Director, Griffith Climate Change Response  
Program, Griffith University, Australia

#### Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:

I have internationally recognized expertise in the fields of conservation science, particularly in relation to ecosystems, connectivity conservation, forest management, and biodiversity-climate change interactions. I have been a member of expert groups which have written reports for the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (Technical Reports 41 and 43). I have participated in various UN international conferences and CoPs for climate change and sustainable development processes. I have considerable experience in the formulation of science and evidence-based conservation policy.

In my first term as a member of the IUCN Council, I have been serving as co-chair of the Programme and Policy Committee, as a member of the Private Sector Task Force, and also as a member of the Climate Change Task Force. In these capacities I have developed an appreciation of the role general policy can play in promoting harmonious collaboration between all components of the Union, and the value to be gained from the Secretariat, Commissions and Members working collaboratively in developing standards, protocols and regulatory frameworks, advancing conservation knowledge and practice, and advancing nature-based solutions through international processes. In the coming four years and beyond, IUCN will be needed more than ever as the pace and impacts of globalization and conventional economic development continue to soar. Not only must we contend with the intensification of existing threatening processes to the conservation of biodiversity, but new threats continue to emerge in the face of growing demand for land and natural resources, among other things. My experience serving on Council together with my professional expertise in the fields of climate change, ecosystem management, biodiversity conservation, ethics and policy development, provide me with a sound foundation to serve a second term on Council and help ensure that IUCN continues to be a healthy and effective organisation.

### 3. Anna Elizabeth Tiraa, Cook Islands

Current employment and/or position/title:  
Director of Climate Change, Cook Islands Government

#### Experience in fields of concern to IUCN:

Anna Tiraa is a committed conservationist with more than 20 years working for the benefit of the Pacific Islands environment. Anna has undertaken environmental related work for Government, National and international NGOs, communities, private sector, inter-governmental regional organizations and the UN. Work experience includes project design, implementation, negotiation, monitoring, review and evaluation. Individual work assignments have been in the Cook Islands, Samoa, Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Tuvalu and Tokelau. She has been a major contributor to bringing back a critically endangered endemic Rarotongan bird from the brink of extinction. As Biodiversity Officer for the Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), she has contributed to the biodiversity conservation efforts of more than 20 Pacific Island countries and territories. This experience has given her a sound knowledge of processes across a broad spectrum of groups contributing to conservation initiatives in the Oceania region, and allowed her to establish a valuable network of environmental policy makers and practitioners in the Oceania region.

Achieving IUCN's Mission is not a one person undertaking. Therefore, my approach will be a team one. As a Pacific Islander who has more than 20 years of working on biodiversity conservation on Small Islands Developing States, I bring a wealth of experience to the key areas of IUCN's work that include biodiversity and Islands. I have been involved with national governments and regional intergovernmental organisations on biodiversity conservation projects, and have worked in most of the Pacific Island countries. I have been closely involved with the work of the IUCN Oceania Regional Office, and have worked with a number of IUCN Members and partners from the region. As an IUCN Councillor representing Oceania, particularly the Pacific Island region, I will strive to build stronger alliances between conservation partners and practitioners amongst the Pacific Islands membership, Commissions and with Oceania Members from Australia and New Zealand. I will do this through an open and transparent communication, building on the excellent work of my predecessor Robin Yarrow. I will work closely with the IUCN Oceania Regional Office to try and ensure that the work that they undertake is in line with, and driven by, the priorities of the Members.

# WHERE WE WORK

These are the countries we are undertaking projects in:

Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.



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## PHOTO CREDITS

Cover (weaved reeds):	IUCN
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