



**ANNUAL REPORT 2015**

**IUCN IN OCEANIA**

# IUCN at a Glance

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

Created in 1948, IUCN has evolved into the world's largest and most diverse environmental network. It harnesses the experience, resources and reach of its 1,300 Member organisations and the input of some 15,000 experts. IUCN is the global authority on the status of the natural world and the measures needed to safeguard it. Our experts are organised into six commissions dedicated to species survival, environmental law, protected areas, social and economic policy, ecosystem management, and education and communication.

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

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

Combined, our knowledge base and diverse membership make IUCN an incubator and trusted repository of best practices, conservation tools, and international guidelines and standards. As the only environmental organisation with official United Nations Observer Status, IUCN ensures that nature conservation has a voice at the highest level of international governance.

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

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

Our Member organisations are represented by the IUCN Council – the governing body. Headquartered in Switzerland, IUCN Secretariat comprises 1,000 staff in 45 countries.

[www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org) | [www.iucn.org/oceania](http://www.iucn.org/oceania)

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# Acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing	MPA	Marine Protected Area
ACIUCN	Australian Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature	NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans
ACP	African Caribbean and Pacific	NGO	Non-Government Organization
ADB	Asian Development Bank	NZAID	New Zealand Aid Programme
BIOPAMA	Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management Programme	NZIUCN	New Zealand Committee of the International Union for Conservation of Nature
BMUB	Federal Ministry for the Environment and Nature Conservation Building and Nuclear Safety	ORO	Oceania Regional Office
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity	PAWG	PIRT Action Working Group
CEC	Commission on Education and Communication	PCEG	Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance
CEESP	Commission on Environmental Economic and Social Policy	PEIN	Pacific Environmental Information Network
CEM	Commission on Ecosystem Management	PICCC	Pacific Islands Community Co-adaptive Management Course
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund	PIP	Pacific Invasive Partnerships
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora	PIPA	Phoenix Islands Protected Area
EDF	European Development Fund	PLP	Pacific Leadership Program
EESLI	Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative	PIRT	Pacific Islands Round Table
EGLP	Environmental Governance and Law Programme	PMU	Project Management Unit
ELA	Environmental Law Association	PNG	Papua New Guinea
ELP	Environmental Law Programme	PRIMNM	Pacific Islands Marine National Monument
ESIS	Environmental Spatial Information System	RMI	Republic of the Marshall Islands
EU	European Union	RIT	Regional Implementation Team
EU-JRC	European Union Joint Research Centre	RRIS	Regional Reference Information System
FELA	Fiji Environmental Law Association	SE4ALL	United Nations Sustainable Energy for All
GEF	Global Environmental Facility	SPC	Pacific Community
GHG	Greenhouse Gas	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation	SSC	Species Survival Commission
IBIS	Island Biodiversity and Invasive Species	TNC	The Nature Conservancy
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	UN	United Nations
LMMA	Locally Land Marine Management Area	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
LCI	Low Carbon Islands	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme
MACBIO	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commissions for Asia and Pacific
MARSH	Mangrove Rehabilitation for Sustainably-Managed Healthy Forests	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
		USP	University of the South Pacific
		VEAN	Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network
		WCC	World Conservation Congress
		WCPA	World Commission on Protected Areas
		WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society

# Foreword

2015 marked our 9th year in the Pacific as IUCN's Oceania Regional Office and an opportunity for some reflection – have we been effective? Have we met the aspirations of our members and added value to the countries we work in?

Starting with membership; The Oceania Regional Conservation Forum with our members provided an opportunity for all to meet our Director General Inger Andersen and to hear her vision for the organization as well as assess the role and performance of the Oceania Regional Office. The feedback has been positive but the challenge is to involve Australia and New Zealand members more effectively with future programmes. We have emerged from this meeting with a consensus on a regional plan for the next five years that will better involve members, commissions and the secretariat. As a result, in 2016 each of our programmes will introduce advisory groups that will include experts from our membership and partners.

Our programmes and activities have been focused on the Pacific Island region and we have carved a niche in the conservation sector by focusing on high level engagement of leaders on environmental and sustainable development issues and engaging in areas where we see gaps that are not being addressed at other levels – energy, mangroves, green growth, oceans planning, law and red listing.

In 2016, we will consolidate our leadership, law and natural resource economics work into the Pacific Center for Environmental Governance (PCEG), we want to provide world-class advisory capacity to Pacific Islands decision makers and a regional “think tank” on cutting edge issues with development and the environment.

Sustainability and impact – a fine balance between the reality of project dependency and the need to be strategic and avoid the organization being driven by the projects. To manage this fine balance we work hard to ensure that the projects we develop and take on are in line with our overall programmatic and policy outcomes. We have built a strong team of over 45 people and a reputation in the region for doing things well and a little differently. In 2016, we will strengthen the leadership team with a senior role for fundraising and strategic partnerships and ensure sustainability and effectiveness for the next five years.

Finally as we move towards the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2016 in Hawaii and past a successful COP 21 in Paris, the theme “Planet at a Crossroads” is critical recognition that we need to step up and raise the bar in terms of impact on saving and restoring ecosystems. This will take innovative partnerships and extraordinary actions – our concepts of “sustainability” may not be enough – we need to challenge private sector, governments, our institutions and leadership at all levels to step up and take “responsibility” not just for their own actions but also for those they can influence. We know from living on the front line of climate change in the Pacific islands that to save ourselves and our islands, we must save the planet.



**Taholo Kami**  
Regional Director  
IUCN Oceania



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# Our Union



IUCN works on hundreds of projects, initiatives and activities around the world.

All of our work is framed by a Global Programme, developed with and approved by IUCN Member organizations every four years at the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

The IUCN Programme, with clear objectives and areas of activity, is coordinated by IUCN's Secretariat and delivered in conjunction with IUCN Member Organizations and Commissions.

## IUCN Global Programme 2013 – 2016

The IUCN Programme 2013 – 2016 has aimed to mobilize communities working for biodiversity conservation, sustainable development and poverty reduction in common efforts to halt biodiversity loss and apply nature-based solutions to conserve biodiversity, enhance resilience, strengthen equity, reduce poverty and so improve the wellbeing of people on this planet.

The Programme builds upon IUCN's niche as the world's authority on biodiversity conservation, nature-based solutions and related environmental governance. It has three Programme Areas:

1. **Valuing and Conserving Nature** enhances IUCN's heartland work on biodiversity conservation, emphasizing both tangible and intangible values of nature.
2. **Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use** consolidates IUCN's work on people-nature relations, rights and responsibilities, and the political economy of nature.
3. **Deploying Nature-based Solutions to Global Challenges in Climate, Food and Development** expands IUCN's work on nature's contribution to tackling problems of sustainable development, particularly in climate change, food security and social and economic development.

The Programme promises to deliver three global results that are also adapted and applied by the IUCN regional programmes and Commissions:

1. Credible and trusted knowledge for valuing and conserving biodiversity leads to better policy and action on the ground.
2. Improved governance arrangements over natural resource management strengthen rights and deliver equitable conservation with tangible livelihoods benefits.
3. Healthy and restored ecosystems make cost-effective contributions to meeting global challenges of climate change, food security and social and economic development.

# Our Commissions

IUCN's six Commissions unite 15,000 volunteer experts from a range of disciplines. They assess the state of the world's natural resources and provide the Union with sound know-how and policy advice on conservation issues.

## **Commission on Ecosystem Management (CEM)**

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

## **Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP)**

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

## **World Commission on Environmental Law (WCEL)**

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

With a worldwide membership, WCEL not only takes the lead in projects of its own, but also provides a source of expertise for the Environmental Law Centre and other parts of IUCN. The Commission thus serves as the principal source of legal technical advice to the Union, its members and its collaborating

institutions on all aspects of environmental law. It supports action by international governmental organisations, governments and non-governmental organisations to improve or develop legal and institutional infrastructure best attuned to natural resources conservation in the context of sustainable development. WCEL's goal is to demonstrate the vital importance of such infrastructure within national and international strategies for environmental conservation, including the sustainable use of natural resources within and beyond national jurisdictions.

## **Commission on Education and Communication (CEC)**

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

## **Species Survival Commission (SSC)**

A science-based network of more than 10,000 volunteer experts from almost every country of the world, all working together towards achieving the vision of, "A just world that values and conserves nature through positive action to reduce the loss of diversity of life on earth".

## **World Commission on Protected Areas (WCPA)**

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

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



# IUCN in Oceania

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## Membership Report 2015

Often a good indicator of growth is when an organization and its members find themselves almost unsettled, hungry and ready for a new challenge. IUCN Oceania's 'growth spurt' so to speak occurred within the membership in 2015.

Early in February, councillors and representatives of members in Oceania and the secretariat sat to map the way forward for a vibrant community of like minded and passionate individuals who make IUCN a conservation organization with a difference. The dialogue was a friendly space for very honest and meaningful discussions, a sounding board and an advisory platform for the IUCN Oceania Regional Office and the wider membership including commissions. During the dialogue, members, commission members and the secretariat sat as a One Programme to map how to tackle conservation challenges together. Outcomes of the Membership dialogue promoted the involvement and engagement of members in programmes and projects through advisory groups, and increased information sharing.

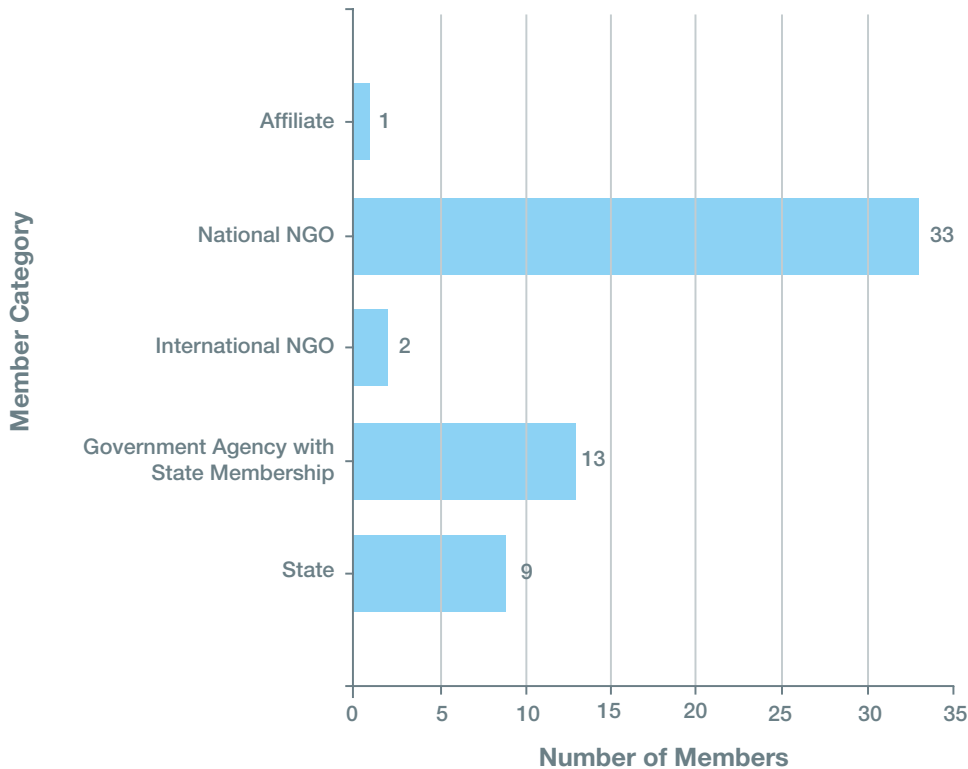
### Key Actions

The key action points arising from discussions at the Regional Dialogue include:

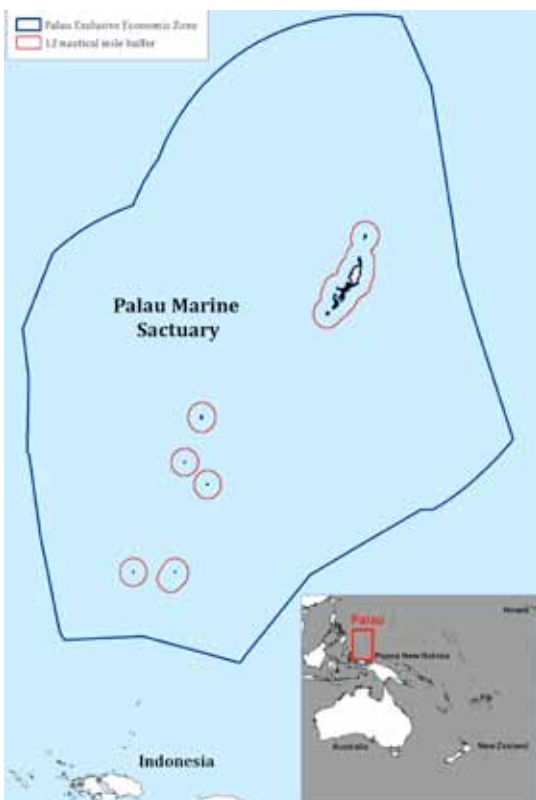
1. Oceania Regional Members Dialogue to be organised annually;
2. Annual One Programme IUCN Oceania Regional Symposium;
3. Exploring webinar and networking events; and
4. Co-fundraising under the One Programme to finance potential programmes and projects like the need to enhance economic and societal values of ecosystems and the potential for engagement with the private sector.



IUCN has 58 members in Oceania. Our newest member is the Government of the Republic of Palau. There is one affiliate member, 33 national NGOs, two international NGOs, 13 government agencies and nine state members. This is reflected in the graph below.



## In the limelight



Our newest member, the Republic of Palau, spotted a place in the limelight in 2015 after approving the creation of a gigantic marine reserve that is bigger than the U.S. state of California.

The milestone decision led to the designation of 193,000 square-mile fully protected marine reserve that would be the sixth largest such area in the world. The reserve would help protect over a thousand species of fish and some 700 species of coral.

The 500,000 sq km (193,000 sq mile) sanctuary is the world's sixth largest fully protected area – meaning no fishing, or other extractive uses such as drilling for oil or deep sea mining.

In his statement following the announcement, President of the Republic of Palau, Tommy E Remengesau Jr. said it was an historic day for Palau, proving that a small island nation can have a big impact on the ocean. The remaining 20% of the sanctuary will still be accessible to local fishermen.

## Membership Experts Mapping

For knowledge intensive organizations like IUCN, a fundamental task is locating the expert, and the expertise needed to support a member, a commission and the secretariat particularly in areas where they are most needed. A comprehensive mapping exercise was undertaken by the Membership Focal Point. The mapping exercise which took over three months involved three stages, and these were identifying the best skills and knowledge set which best reflected the objectives of the member organization which was then tagged to the organization.

Second, a verification process where members were requested to verify whether the skills and knowledge mapped to the organization was true and captured the essence of their work and third updating the membership knowledge base. The mapping exercise identified members able to provide support in areas of ocean governance, natural resource economics, sustainability, human intrusions and disturbances, climate change and severe weather, invasive and other problematic species, genes and diseases, fisheries and harvesting aquatic resources, livelihoods, tourism, social and cultural development and geological events.

### Skills identified during the mapping exercise included:

- land planning and management;
- research;
- water management;
- community participation;
- law & policy (including multilateral environmental agreements);
- institutional building & reform;
- land protection;
- restoration;
- monitoring;
- communication; and
- GIS, mapping & remote sensing.



# Oceania Regional Conservation Forum



***“It was a superb event and I thoroughly enjoyed it. ORO is clearly a well-oiled machine and we thank you for all you do for the members in the region. I very much look forward to strengthening the new links with ORO and to working more closely with the team. My sincere thanks again and best wishes,” Dr Neil Gilbert, Former NZIUCN Chair.***

The Oceania Regional Conservation Forum (ORCF) was held at the Great Council of Chiefs complex in Suva, Fiji with the aim of bringing together IUCN Members and selected representatives from IUCN Commissions in Oceania in the preparation for the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress. Over 40 participants attended the meeting. Of significance was the attendance of the IUCN Director General, Inger Andersen, Union Development Group Global Director, Dr Enrique Lahmann and the Commission Chairs; Aroha Mead of the Commission on Environment, Economic and Social Policy, Dr Simon Stuart of the Species Survival Commission and Justice Antonio Benjamin the Chair of the World Commission on Environmental Law.

## The Agenda

The programme was divided into seven parts, and while for the most part addressed governance issues, the meeting also took into account efforts and different programmes which can either be built upon or developed within Oceania to advance conservation. The main components of the programme included, but were not limited to the following:

1. IUCN Programme 2017-2020.
2. IUCN Oceania Regional Plan 2017-2020.
3. IUCN Governance.
4. Motions Process.
5. Resolutions (Including Oceania Related Resolutions).
6. World Conservation Congress.
7. Other business.

## The Issues

While conservation issues and challenges continue to emerge often funding initiatives to address these issues can be a challenge to secure. There is a huge gap in funding which is not being appropriately addressed, and reluctance to engage with private sector will have to be raised and handled. Other issues of importance, which members discussed included:

## Aichi Targets

Currently, we are not on track to reach the Aichi targets by 2020, and we are not doing enough to meet the enormous pressures, which include but are not limited to; increased population (where it is estimated that we will have nine billion people by 2050), urbanization, climate change and poverty.

## The Red List

The observed Red List index shows improved conservation results over the counter-factual Red List index from 1996-2008 in the absence of conservation. IUCN Members, Commissions and the Secretariat were urged to continue the work to progress the Red List in the region.

## Current Challenges

### Science & Knowledge

A significant amount of information published by IUCN Union members is not known or readily accessible. This is a challenge, which we will need to address, particularly where there are leading-edge knowledge products which ensure impact.

### Policy influence and knowledge

IUCN is the world-class conservation leader influencing policy makers, media, and public for a sustainable future. There is clearly a need to shift towards effective communications Union-wide and to strengthen the scientific base where IUCN is the go-to organization for knowledge products.

We also aim to focus on further creating an impact on conservation, expanding our influence on the drivers behind the conservation and environmental challenges and arguably that this should be the vision for 2020.

IUCN sets standards on Key Performance Indicators for conservation practices, but it is cause for concern to recognize others outside the environmental conservation space are not aware of what IUCN does. Members agreed that the IUCN brand will be leveraged. Additionally, membership will be further strengthened, especially where the region will draw from the experiences of members.

***“I see a region committed, I see a region in peril, but I also see a region determined. I see a passion, a visceral commitment to making a difference.”***

*Inger Andersen, IUCN Director General*

# Our Work in Oceania

IUCN has three global programme areas, and given the special focus in Oceania on sustainable development, IUCN Oceania has a fourth to guide its programme of work in the region.

## 1. Valuing and Conserving Nature

### Species

The Pacific Islands region covers almost 15% of the world's surface and is characterised by a high degree of ecosystem and species diversity as well as an extremely high level of endemism (often over 90% for particular groups). The region has a high degree of economic and cultural dependence on the natural environment, and many conservation and development challenges: for example, rapid population growth has often led to over-harvesting of natural resources; high levels of threats by invasive species in island ecosystems; and vulnerability to the impacts of climate change.

Our Species Programme seeks to increase and share knowledge regarding native species found throughout the 24 countries and territories of Oceania, although with a main focus on species found in the Pacific Islands.

## 2. Deploying Nature-based Solutions to Global Challenges in Climate, Food and Development

### Water and Wetlands

Our Water and Wetlands Programme addresses environmental concerns in regard to water resource management and the role of natural solutions in climate change adaptation and coastal ecosystems management.





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### 3. Effective and Equitable Governance of Nature's Use

#### Environmental Law

Countries in Oceania have enacted environmental laws and become parties to many global and regional environmental conventions, agreements and protocols. However effective rights-based governance of natural resources remains an issue and effective implementation of the laws remains a key challenge. Our Environmental Law Programme (ELP) works closely with IUCN's global Environmental Law Programme to deliver results in the following key areas:

- Awareness raising
- Capacity building
- Policy development
- Research and knowledge building

### 4. Green economy

#### Sustainable Energy

Our Energy Programme aims to drive nature's agenda into national and regional energy discussions. It also assists Pacific Island countries in accelerating their transition to renewable energy and energy efficient systems; systems that are ecologically efficient, sustainable, and socially equitable.

#### Leadership

Our Leadership, Green Growth and Sustainability Initiative (LeGGASI) seeks to consolidate the Green Growth platform by providing key leaders from Pacific countries the necessary safe space to reflect on and discuss common development challenges to sustainable development and seek collective advice and counsel on the proposed strategies to promote Green Growth.

# What We Do

## 1. Valuing and Conserving Nature

The biodiversity of the Oceania region is characterised by exceptionally high levels of endemism and species diversity, underpinning ecosystem functioning and the provision of ecosystem services, and supporting the daily livelihoods of millions of people. IUCN Oceania supports governments, Members and communities to strengthen capacity for the sustainable management and conservation of the species and ecosystems of Oceania, and to address the major drivers of biodiversity loss.

### Species

#### IUCN Red List

Through the IUCN Red List process, support is provided to strengthen our understanding of the conservation status of species, and promote action towards conservation and management of threatened species and ecosystems. Increasing awareness and collaboration on species issues is a central component of IUCN ORO's work on species, and is largely achieved at the regional level through activities of the Species Working Group of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation. IUCN ORO works to support the implementation of Multilateral Environment Agreements in the Pacific, with a focus on implementation of National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), and providing technical assistance for the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Parties. Through the IUCN Invasive Species Specialist Group's Pacific Office based in Auckland, New Zealand, IUCN ORO supports initiatives that address invasive species management in the region.

In 2015, IUCN ORO continued with Red Listing efforts focusing on marine fishes generally associated with coral reef habitats, such as fusiliers, dottybacks, filefishes, squirrelfishes, scorpionfishes, gobies, goatfishes and lizardfishes, and some fish families that are of economic importance such as snappers, grunts, emperors, seabasses and jacks. A workshop was held in March in partnership with IUCN's Marine Biodiversity Unit to assess approximately 800 species of coral reef-associated fishes found throughout the Pacific Islands region. Assessments were made according to the IUCN Red List Categories and Criteria. The workshop was attended by some of the world's leading experts on these fishes. Later in 2015, provisional assessments conducted at the workshop were reviewed and revised, ready for inclusion on the IUCN Red List in 2016.



## Second Pacific Islands Species Forum

In July, the second Pacific Islands Species Forum was held at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji. The second Species Forum was again co-organized by IUCN and the Pacific Islands Round Table (PIRT) Species Working Group, and focused on highlighting species conservation and contributing to initiatives aimed at halting biodiversity loss. It sought to inform country representatives of the status of species conservation in the Pacific and at the same time contribute to national understanding of strategies, policies and MEAs related to species and ecosystems – for example, in relation to the Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Alongside the Species Forum, a half-day session was held with CITES representatives from Oceania, where challenges, needs and technical issues were discussed.

Moving into 2016, work will continue on Red Listing in the Pacific, and on promoting collaborative action for species conservation in the region. Another major focus will be supporting and providing assistance to governments for CITES implementation, especially in the lead up to the 2016 Conference of the Parties.

## Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF)

The Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) is a global programme that provides grants to non-government organizations and other private sector partners to protect critical ecosystems in 36 global biological hotspots. IUCN Oceania is acting as the Regional Implementation Team (RIT) for CEPF's investment in the East Melanesian Islands hotspot, which covers Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and the islands region of Papua New Guinea. A total investment of USD 9 million was committed in 2013 for a period of eight years. IUCN ORO is working to convert the investment into a cohesive portfolio of grants, all in line with an overarching strategy termed the East Melanesian Islands Ecosystem Profile.

The beginning of 2015 saw over 25 CEPF funded projects active, all of which addressed one of the following strategic directions from the Ecosystem Profile:

- to empower local communities to protect and manage globally significant biodiversity underserved by current conservation efforts;
- to integrate biodiversity conservation into local land use and development planning;
- to safeguard priority globally threatened species by addressing major threats and information gaps; and
- to increase local, national and regional capacity to conserve biodiversity through catalysing civil society partnerships.

A third call for proposals was announced in July, coinciding with proposal writing workshops in Rabaul, Kavieng and Manus in the islands region of Papua New Guinea and in Port Vila and Espiritu Santo in Vanuatu. These workshops were made possible through notable collaborations between the RIT and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) in Papua New Guinea, and BirdLife and Vanuatu Environment Advocacy Network (VEAN) in Vanuatu. Over 60 proposals were received in response to the call and were reviewed by external reviewers.

Site visits were made to monitor the progress of grants throughout the East Melanesian Islands. In May, a supervision mission was carried out by CEPF and the RIT to project sites in Solomon Islands, and grantees in Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea were visited simultaneously with the proposal writing workshops between July and August.



## Marine

### **Enhancing manager-level engagement on large Marine Protected Areas (Big MPAs) in the Eastern Pacific**

The project involved IUCN facilitating a meeting between the management of the Phoenix Islands Protected Area (PIPA), the Marae Moana of the Cook Islands, the natural park of the Coral Sea (New Caledonia), and the Pacific Remote Island Marine National Monument USA (PRIMNM) – four of the world’s largest Marine Parks. It was facilitated by a grant from the US Embassy.

The meeting strengthened cross-MPA cooperation in areas such as: capacity building of management committees, policy reviews, sustainable financing mechanism, research, surveillance and enforcement amongst others. IUCN strengthened its reputation as a convener.

To ensure that the relationship and support networks developed between the governments responsible for the four large MPAs are maintained and broadened out to others, IUCN will look towards large-scale ocean planning during 2016.

### **Cook Islands Marine Park – Facilitating the establishment of the world’s largest Marine Park**

The project supported the Cook Islands Government in the establishment of one of the world’s largest marine parks: the Cook Islands Marine Park (or Cook Islands Marae Moana). It was funded by Global Blue.

Building on work in 2014, in 2015, the Office of the Prime Minister of Cook Islands implemented a Grant Agreement, signed with IUCN, to achieve two further project outputs: a national stocktake of marine biodiversity and physical oceanography data as a baseline for associated marine spatial planning (implemented by the National Environment Services), and strengthening of existing traditional MPAs (raui) as specific entities under a Park zoning concept (by the Are Ariki and Koutu Nui).

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

This project aims to strengthen sustainable management of coastal and marine biodiversity in Fiji, Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. The MACBIO project is being implemented





by the German Agency for International Cooperation (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit – GIZ), with technical support from IUCN, in close collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and in partnership with countries. This project is funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB).

In 2015, MACBIO delivered five final national marine ecosystem service evaluation reports and associated draft communication materials (for Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu), one final and three draft reviews of legislation regarding support for marine spatial planning (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Fiji), helped Tonga review on-the-water lessons learned from the marine Special Management Areas (soon to be significantly expanded in scope) and supported in-country initiatives to begin large-scale ocean planning (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Fiji).

Improving sustainable use of the marine resources of the Pacific also contributes to IUCN's main programme areas of valuing and conserving nature, more effective governance and nature-based solutions. More importantly, better information and ocean-wide planning can deliver greater food security and more sustainable livelihoods to the people of the Pacific.

### **Regional Technical Meeting on Bêche-de-Mer**

This meeting defined the next steps needed to improve the sustainability of the Bêche-de-Mer fisheries for the benefit of communities. The meeting was initiated, hosted, and facilitated by IUCN ORO, Government of the Kingdom of Tonga and Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Additional support was provided by WorldFish, Pacific Community (SPC) and USP.

The meeting helped maintain momentum towards raising the profile of in-shore fisheries, particularly inclusive of Bêche-de-Mer, across the Pacific with five Governments being represented, including at Ministerial level. Outcomes included Tongan Government successfully implementing a moratorium

on the Bêche-de-Mer fishery to rebuild stocks, the Fiji Government implementing a Coastal Fisheries Unit within its Department of Fisheries and other governments committing to implementing effective management plans for Bêche-de-Mer. Perhaps more importantly, the participants called for their peers in other Pacific Island Countries to join these efforts with particular regard to forming a coalition to explore regional approaches to secure more sustainable value from the Bêche-de-Mer fishery for coastal communities. The PNG National Fisheries Authority has indicated a willingness to support pursuit of such an approach.

These efforts contribute to IUCN's main program areas of conserving nature, effective governance, and nature-based solutions as well as Pacific Island Countries' efforts to improve marine resource management for the future of their people.

### **Learning and Best Practice in Coastal Resource Management**

The project aimed to create synergies from existing best practices in coastal resource management both in terms of sharing lessons and building networks. The key outputs at country level, in Fiji, PNG and the Solomon Islands were increased participation of practitioners in developing national best management practices guidelines.

IUCN convened two regional learning meetings to coincide with the Pacific Nature Conservation Roundtable meetings in 2014 and 2015. These were very beneficial for the countries who discussed shared challenges and lessons learned which they then integrated into their subsequent coastal resource management efforts. Lessons were documented at these meetings.

In addition, country-specific manuals were produced: the iTaukei Affairs Conservation Handbook for Government Officers dealing with environment management and conservation; the PNG manual was entitled the *Code of Good Practice in Community Conservation and Resource Management in Papua New Guinea* and local approaches to promoting spread of community-based resource management from village to village: Lessons from Mararo Community Based Organization, East 'Are'are, Solomon Islands.

### **Financial sustainability of MPAs Project**

IUCN is providing support to WCS and WWF in work with the Fiji Protected Area Committee to estimate costs of running a national MPA network. The project will also identify options to establish sustainable financing mechanisms. The study sites are Kubulau, Macuata and Lau. A cost model is being developed to determine site specific costs and to estimate the costs of a national network of MPAs. Potential ideas for sustainable funding mechanisms that are being explored include: (i) opportunities to access the Environment Trust Fund in the Ministry of Local Government, Housing and Environment, (ii) establishing an Endowment Trust Fund (within or outside of Fiji), or (iii) using the existing trust fund established for Sovi Basin.

### **Way Forward**

#### **Big MPAs**

To ensure that the relationship and support networks developed between the governments responsible for the four large MPAs are maintained and broadened.

#### **Large scale marine spatial planning**

Governments are wanting to implement large-scale marine spatial planning both within and beyond marine parks in the region. We will be seeking further resources to harness IUCN's expertise to support those efforts.

## MACBIO

The draft regional marine ecosystem service valuation report will be finalised. MACBIO will facilitate government efforts to improve marine conservation planning by supporting development of some of the key building blocks: specific ocean management objectives aligned with government priorities; zone/MPA typology; priority biodiversity areas; a basis for selecting ecologically representative areas; zone placement guidelines; consultation strategy. The project will also support partner efforts to look at lessons learned and to test new concepts at a site level.

## Coastal Fisheries and Bêche-de-Mer Summit

In 2016, IUCN ORO will be supporting countries' efforts to improve management efforts by increasing government and donor attention upon coastal fisheries and Bêche-de-Mer.

## Planning for an ocean future

Four countries in the Pacific are moving ahead with more integrated, spatial planning for their oceans. Vanuatu, Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Fiji are all, each in their own way, building the oceans into their future development and environmental planning – and MACBIO is proud to be able to assist in their efforts. MACBIO is supporting Vanuatu in the development and consultations around an inaugural Ocean Policy – one that provides a clear framework for integrated marine spatial planning throughout its Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), including building an ecologically representative network of marine protected areas by 2020. The Solomon Islands Government, together with MACBIO, hosted an in-house, cross-Ministerial Ocean Summit to explore synergies, conflicts, development and conservation opportunities in their ocean. At the Summit, the government decided that more integrated, spatial planning for their entire ocean would benefit the future of the Solomons and a Cabinet Paper has been put forward to progress the next steps. The Fiji Government is taking a different approach and looking at an EEZ-wide network of Marine Protected Areas which represent 30% of the marine environment of the country by 2020. In 2015, MACBIO was formally requested to support this program by helping to define a work program, objectives, zone typology, legal analysis and design criteria to implement the 30% MPAs. Tonga's Cabinet decided, in July 2015, to initiate marine spatial planning throughout its ocean to the outer extent of its EEZ and MACBIO is part of this endeavor. The government steering committee, called the Ocean 7, is working with MACBIO to define the workplan, timelines and deliverables for an inaugural Marine Spatial Plan for Tonga by 2020.





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

The Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management (BIOPAMA) programme aims to address threats to biodiversity in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries, while reducing poverty in communities in and around protected areas. It is an initiative of the ACP Group financially supported by the European Union's 10th European Development Fund (EDF). BIOPAMA is jointly implemented by IUCN, European Commission-Joint Research Centre (EC-JRC) and the Access Benefit Sharing (ABS) Initiative.

### **Information portal for protected areas**

BIOPAMA engages SPREP to manage a regional "observatory" for protected areas that has an online presence through the Regional Reference Information System (RRIS) embedded within the Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal (PIPAP), also implemented by SPREP.

The PIPAP and RRIS build on global efforts for collecting data from national services, NGOs, research institutions, and regional and international institutions holding relevant information on various aspects of biodiversity and protected areas management. The PIPAP and RRIS work with closely related data-sharing initiatives and information systems, particularly the Central RIS at JRC, and SPREP's Pacific Environmental Information Network (PEIN) and Environment Spatial Information System (ESIS). Partnerships with related environmental information initiatives have also been forged to enhance the scope of useful and accessible information to support planning and managing protected areas.

The RRIS is now assisting Pacific ACP Group countries, and some overseas territories that wish to contribute voluntarily, to track national targets for expanded and better-managed networks of protected areas by giving decision makers, managers, stakeholders and communities access to better biodiversity information for conserving biodiversity and improved management of protected areas.

A substantial initial task has been to develop understanding of each countries' data and information improvement needs, to build data sharing relationships, and to support their participation with the RRIS in ways that best meet their particular needs.

In Pacific countries, the maintenance of land and sea areas tended through community stewardship to support both people and nature may not always be officially labelled, designated or fully recognised as contributing to a national protected area system. Yet such areas make a substantial contribution to biodiversity conservation and health, well-being, culture and livelihoods. These areas often constitute the dominant national 'protected area' network. BIOPAMA is actively encouraging wider dialogue about 'other effective area-based conservation measures' and the need for improved recording, recognition and support for these areas and their communities.

### **Strengthening capacity**

Successfully establishing and effectively managing protected and other conserved areas over the long term involves conservation and environmental management institutions and personnel, land and sea stewards, and a range of important partners, particularly leaders and up and coming professionals. They need to be equipped with appropriate and specialised skills and understanding to achieve results at community, local, national and regional levels. To support this aim, BIOPAMA has facilitated the development of the *Capacity Development for Protected and Other Conserved Areas in the Pacific Islands Region: Strategy and Action Framework 2015–2020*. The framework highlights the importance of partnerships, programs and processes that work closely with existing contexts and conditions, that understand and reflect values and cultures, and that build on existing knowledge and strengths.

The framework is grounded by the combined lessons and open reflections passed on by many practitioners and echo what Pacific Islanders have said about what works best for them in their operating conditions as well as the value placed on relationships, connections and exchange of information. There is also recognition of how a number of communities and organisations are orienting their capacity development focus around more effective, regionally appropriate practices such as peer networks, on the job learning, short tailored training courses and mentoring.

A primary characteristic of protected areas and biodiversity conservation management in the Pacific is the depth and variety of community-based resource management. In supporting this distinctive regional context, BIOPAMA played an instrumental role in working with the Institute of Applied Science of USP, Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) Network, GIZ/MACBIO and SPREP to revive, update and consolidate the Pacific Islands Community Co-adaptive management Course PICCC. The course provides core skills and develops critical thinking for achieving widespread natural resource management and sustainable community livelihoods drawing particularly on successful regional experience and skills. Though the course draws on relevant international science and thinking it particularly, encourages participants to evaluate and share experiences from within the region.

### **Technical network**

In collaboration with SPREP, BIOPAMA took a lead to reinvigorate the Protected Areas Working Group (PAWG) under the PIRT for Nature Conservation. The PAWG now provides a forum to help better connect a wide range of people whose work relates to protected and conserved areas, nationally as well as regionally. Specifically, the PAWG aims to create a regional hub for networking exchange of knowledge and experience and lessons learned; allow for contribution of views on priority directions and how action will be taken; encourage and support collaboration and coordination in implementing the Pacific Islands Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas, and; enable collective advocacy and action on priority topics. An operating charter has been endorsed as well as an agreed action plan.

## 2. Deploying Nature-Based Solutions to Global Challenges in Climate, Food & Development

### Water & Wetlands

There were three projects in the WWP portfolio for 2015:

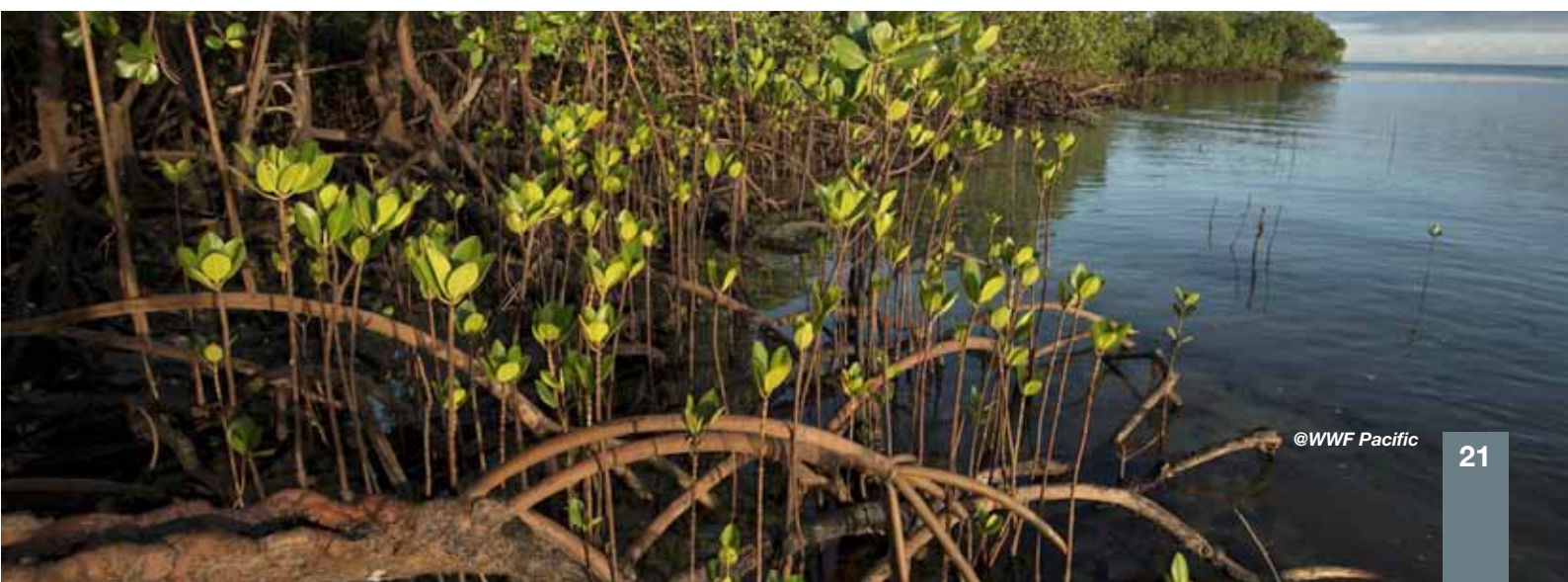
1. The USAID-funded Mangrove Rehabilitation for Sustainably-Managed Healthy Forests (MARSH) project that came to an end on September 30th and which was implemented in PNG.
2. The French Pacific-funded project on improving the livelihoods of kai fisherwomen by doing a risk assessment of the fishery, improving the quality of kai sold using a low-tech depuration facility and assessment of the market for value-added products.
3. The final project was the sub-contract by The Nature Conservancy (TNC) on the BMUB-funded project that will assess the vulnerability of communities and their ecosystems to the impacts of climate change in Micronesia and Melanesia. IUCN will focus on the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

### Achievements

1. Publication of the Training manual for disability social inclusion and equal opportunity for gender balance by the MARSH project. Publication of *A community guide to mangrove planting and restoration* in English and Tok Pisin by the MARSH project.
2. Provincial mangrove policies drafted in Manus and West New Britain by the MARSH project.
3. The final activity for the project was the convening of the Mangoro Bung (Tok Pisin for Mangrove meeting) which brought together the NGOs, government agencies, community representatives and private sector in a forum that discussed what had been done to date in mangrove conservation in PNG, future work and the development of a national mangrove policy. The meeting received extensive media coverage.

These achievements were critical in bringing the MARSH project to a successful end despite the premature closure of the project and helped to restore good relations with a key donor. Solid partnerships were also established in PNG that will endure and will continue to promote mangrove conservation in the country. The activities also helped to raise IUCN's profile in the largest and most complex country of all Pacific Island states. There were key lessons learnt that IUCN will bear in mind when delivering successive large climate change projects in the region.

The BMUB/TNC project offers a welcome opportunity to work in Micronesia as the program's work to date has been focused in Melanesia and Polynesia. The work in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) allows the program to address food and water security on the atolls of the region. The program will also seek to diversify its funding sources and to include gender issues in its work.



## 3. Effective & Equitable Governance of Nature's Use

### Environmental Law

The Environmental Law Programme (ELP) provides environmental legal technical assistance and support to Pacific Island countries and to IUCN Oceania programmes and projects. These services include:

- Capacity building for governments, particularly for the enforcement of environmental laws, through training courses and workshops.
- Providing technical legal reviews, analysis, advice and recommendations on existing legislation and policy.
- Providing legal and governance input into projects in thematic areas (water, energy, marine,) including training and analysis of legislation.
- Strengthening environmental law and policy in the region and raising awareness among practising lawyers through the development of environmental law associations.
- Assisting in policy development for a rights-based approach to nature management.
- Assisting with the development of national environmental legislation.
- Engaging in research and knowledge building through publications.

### Projects

In 2015 ELP worked on a number of projects including:

- Strengthening Environmental Law Component under the Strengthening Coastal and Marine Resources Management in the Coral Triangle of the Pacific (Phase 2), part of the Asia Development Bank Coral Triangle Pacific Project

This involved the successful establishment of three Environmental Law Associations (Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea), the Pacific Network for Environmental Law (PaNEL) and the production of a number of knowledge products.

- Global Environment Facility Pacific Alliance for Sustainability (GEFPAS) Low Carbon Islands. ELP provided technical support to the Project Countries (Niue, Nauru and Tuvalu) in four areas:

- » Developing localised draft Power Purchase Agreements between the power utilities in the project countries and the renewable energy suppliers who will supply power produced from the renewable energy sources to the power grids.
- » Localised drafts of feed-in-tariff policies for the project countries.
- » Regulatory and legal framework for grid access.
- » Localised drafts of customs, duty and taxation schedule including renewable energy efficient technology products and services in the project countries.

- Condensed Strategic Environmental Assessment Guideline (CSEAG) for Pacific Island Countries' energy policies

The ELP developed a Strategic Environment Assessment Guideline (SEAG) for the implementation of energy policies, programmes and plans (including frameworks) in the Pacific Islands.

- Legislative Review of Marine Protected Areas in Fiji

The ELP began a legal review and analysis for the MACBIO Project, looking at legislation pertaining to marine protected areas in Fiji.



## Achievements

As well as the outcomes from the projects above, the establishment of the Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance (PCEG) was a major achievement for IUCN ORO and in particular for the Environment Law Programme.

The concept of PCEG was originally flagged in the earlier years of IUCN ORO but was put on hold due to limited resources at the time. Fast forward to 2014 and the concept was independently and separately recommended following an independent review of the ELP conducted by a member of the World Commission on Environmental Law.

Following the recommendation of the review, in 2015 PCEG was developed and designed to create a more holistic approach to governance by bringing the following areas together:

- environmental law
- leadership for green growth
- natural resource economics
- social and environmental policy

PCEG will provide world-class environmental governance support for Pacific Island decision makers and to existing IUCN programs. It will also contribute to the discussion and debate on pressing issues within and around the conservation sector. It will operate as a knowledge and practice hub, using a collaborative, holistic and innovative approach, underpinned by IUCN's regional and international experience, knowledge and networks.

In 2015 the ELP also helped establish the Pacific Network for Environmental Law (PaNEL), at the 18th Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation annual meeting Suva, Fiji.

PaNEL is a network of organisations and individuals with an interest in protecting the environment by strengthening systems, institutions, organisations and individuals concerned with environmental law in the Pacific region. The Chair is Maria-Goreti Muavesi, ELP's Acting-Senior Environmental Legal Officer, and PaNEL is in the process of finalising its terms of reference.

Delivered under the ADB CTI Pacific Project, achievements also included the development of:

- Strategic Action Plans for each ELA
- The Solomon Islands Capacity Building on Environmental Law Report
- The Fiji integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Regulatory Roadmaps for Communities, Developers and Decision-Makers
- The Timor Leste Environmental Law Handbook

## Way Forward

2016 will be an exciting year for environmental law in the region as ELP becomes a part of the Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance and builds on the governance synergies between law, economics, social policy and leadership.

PaNEL will have terms of reference to guide its work in the region and the opportunities in working with the newly formed Environmental Law Associations to strengthening environmental awareness through the promotion of laws and policies.

The World Conservation Congress and the first-ever World Environmental Law Congress are two forums that the ELP and PCEG look forward to contributing to in 2016.

## 4. Green Economy

### Energy



The Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (EESLI) is ORO's flagship energy programme. EESLI aims to promote energy systems that are ecologically efficient, sustainable, and socially equitable through fostering energy security in the Oceania region.

#### Projects

There are two main components of the energy programme. The Energy, Ecosystems and Sustainable Livelihoods Initiative (EESLI) is the core energy programme which is funded by the governments of Italy, Austria, Luxembourg and Spain. The EESLI programme is in its eighth year running, currently being implemented in ten Pacific Island Countries. The countries

include Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The second component is the Low Carbon Islands (LCI), funded by the Global Environment Facility. The LCI project is being implemented in the following countries; Nauru, Niue, and Tuvalu. Both components share one common thread – they both focus on assisting countries to build their resilience to climate change through policy and regulatory support and building demonstration projects on the ground. In addition, both components are helping the countries to reduce their dependence on imported petroleum fuels which, in turn, reduce their greenhouse gas emissions (GHG).

#### Achievements

1. Assisting in increasing the percentage of the population in participating countries with access to modern energy services;
2. Assisting in increasing the level of penetration of renewable energy and energy efficiency in participating countries, thus meeting two objectives of the United Nations Sustainable Energy for All (SE4ALL); and
3. Increasing the level of awareness and understanding on the linkages between the environment and energy systems.

#### Way Forward

ORO is the only IUCN region that is implementing an energy programme. This presents ORO with a unique opportunity to demonstrate to the IUCN management and the rest of the IUCN regions that energy can be a strategic tool to promote biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. ORO energy programme is planning to take the opportunity of the upcoming WCC (2016) to organise a high-level discussion on how energy and sustainable development feed in to nature-based solutions, environmental governance, and valuing & conserving nature. The outcome of the deliberation will be incorporated into the main IUCN forum agenda with the hope that this will generate interest in discussing energy issues within the IUCN family.

The ORO energy programme will continue to work closely with Pacific Island Countries in promoting energy systems that are economically efficient, ecologically sustainable and socially equitable.

## Leadership

Our Leadership, Green Growth and Sustainability Initiative (LeGGASI) program seeks to consolidate the green growth platform by providing key leaders from Pacific countries the necessary safe space to reflect on and discuss common development challenges to sustainable development and seek collective advice and counsel on the proposed strategies to promote Green Growth.

A key component of the LeGGASI program is the Green Growth Leaders Coalition (GGLC), which provides Pacific leaders with a coalition and forum in which to shape a coordinated approach to sustainable blue-green growth. The GGLC is supported by the Pacific Leadership Program, a regional initiative of the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

## Achievements

- A total of 27 leaders joined the GGLC leadership retreat in April with high-level presence and participation of Prime Minister of Fiji, the Prime Minister of Tonga – Honorable Akilisi Pohiva who for first time in public shared his story, the Journey and Era of Democracy. The leaders committed to key actions to realise their individual aspirations at provincial, national and joint regional actions.

There were other issues that the coalition committed to take forward such as the mentoring of new generation of leaders, multicultural policy integration and developing best management models to address land ownership issues, development indicators and integrating a value-based system into our Pacific green growth frameworks.

- The draft Vanuatu National Development Plan was endorsed by the government through a consultative process with other partners such as ADB engaged to provide technical support.
- The Ha'apai green growth development plan and process was adopted and process of implementation in place.
- The Responsible Development Strategy for PNG was launched with full support from government.

## Way forward

The GGLC leadership retreat will be held again in 2016. Along with a review and talanoa about the progress of individual and national aspirations stemming from the 2015 retreat, the retreat will include presentations and talanoa related to the priority initiatives identified by Pacific Islands Forum leaders through the Framework for Pacific Regionalism process in 2015.

In 2016, the GGLC will come under the umbrella of the Pacific Centre for Environmental Governance, a new unit at IUCN Oceania bringing leadership, environmental law, resource economics and social policy together to enable a more holistic and innovative approach to the Pacific's sustainable development opportunities and challenges.



## Forestry

The IUCN ORO Forest Programme hosted a regional forestry ministerial meeting in Nadi, Fiji from 24-26 September 2015. The meeting was attended by Ministers and representatives from Fiji, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Tonga. The *talanoa* offered a safe space for leaders to develop a mutual understanding amongst regional leaders of the true state of forests in the region. Leaders were also required to identify areas of concern with current global and regional policies and forests instruments and identify the potential and opportunities forests can contribute to the new economy. In addition, Leaders were given the opportunity to identify priority threats, challenges and opportunities that individual countries and the region face on forest conservation, reforestation, sustainable forest management and strategic partnerships.



### Outcomes

There were four key outcomes of the meeting. These are summarized below.

The meeting agreed that in order to guide forest actions in the region that a *Regional Sustainable Forestry Management Framework* be developed to address regional forest challenges, develop strategies to address; strengthening partnerships, intra-cooperation within countries in the region, ownership by resource owners, carbon funding opportunities, political will and leadership, and to manage increasing local and international demand for local forest products. The meeting further requested regional technical agencies including SPC and IUCN to support and facilitate the development of the framework. Participants also urged countries to pledge forest landscape restoration targets in line with national priorities, which are also aligned to regional and international targets such as Aichi Target 14 and the Bonn Challenge. In this regard the meeting noted the pledge by countries to provide regional technical agencies including SPC and IUCN with the mandate to operationalize the pledges. The meeting also requested regional technical agencies including SPC and IUCN to establish durable and sustainable partnerships and explore new innovative funding and sustainable financing mechanisms to support national and regional forest landscape restoration initiatives in the region. The leaders supported the continuation of the *talanoa* concept in addressing critical issues in the region and noted with appreciation the offer by Fiji and PNG to host the next Forest Ministerial *talanoa*.

### Way Forward

The fledgeling IUCN ORO Forest Programme will be further developed in 2016 in consultations with partners and stakeholders with the view of bringing IUCN knowledge and expertise in areas such as forest landscape restoration amongst others.

## Special Projects

### Waste-to-Art Initiative

The Waste-to-Art Initiative started in April 2015 and was designed to raise awareness on marine pollution and bring waste management onto the table for IUCN ORO's Sustainable Energy Programme to supplement the LifeCycle Pacific initiative's ongoing effort in facilitating the development of the old Lami Dump site into a recreational park with bicycle tracks and amenities for the public. The Waste-to-Art Initiative is a hands-on multidimensional project to raise awareness on pollution & waste and the associated impacts on the environment while subsequently engaging participants in a creative project to turn recyclable waste into art. The final creations were installed at the Lami Dump Site in commemoration of the site being developed into a functional space for public use. The Waste-to-Art initiative received funding from the Embassy of the United States of America and the Pacific Development & Conservation Trust of New Zealand.

### Waste-to-Art Workshops

The series of youth-centred workshops on four consecutive Saturdays in November 2015 served to raise awareness on pollution, waste management, and the impacts of human activity on the environment. Students learned skills to make art out of PET bottles and milk cartons from RecreateFiji under the guidance of local recycle artist, Warwick Marlow. These later made up components of the larger sculptures to be installed at the former Lami Dump site. Recyclable waste collected at the clean-up days was used to build the final art pieces. The workshops saw kids from various backgrounds and social demographics coming together to learn about pollution, waste, and the environment to take up roles as agents of change in their future endeavours. In addition, a whiteboard animation video was also produced as a learning tool, featuring statistics from the Suva Harbour coastal clean-up data.



# Our Partners in Oceania

IUCN's philosophy of unity and joint action carries into its work with donors and partners. IUCN counts on the support of a large network of partners who help fund our activities, implement the IUCN Programme, or offer their knowledge and expertise to support our work. Our work is made possible through the generous contributions of a growing number of donors and partners including governments, multilateral institutions, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, international conventions, foundations, companies and individuals.

	ACP Secretariat		Arizona State University, Vocational Training and Education for Clean Energy
	Asian Development Bank		Coral Reef Alliance
	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund		European Commission
	Federal Ministry for Europe, Intergration and Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Austria		Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Building and Nuclear Safety (BMUB)
	Food and Agricultural Organisation		Frankfurt University
	French Embassy		German Agency for International Cooperation, GIZ
	Global Blue		Global Environment Facility
	Invasive Species Specialist		Ministere des Affaires Etrangeres, Direction de la Cooperartion au Development, Luxembourg
	New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade		Pacific Community
	Pacific Leadership Programme		Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
	Australia Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade		The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation of Spain
	The Ministry Foreign Affairs of International Cooperation of the Republic of Italy		United Nations Development Programme
	The Nature Conservancy		University of the South Pacific
	United States Agency for International Development		Wildlife Conservation Society
	USA Embassy		World Wildlife Fund
	WorldFish Solomon Islands		

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