



The IUCN Regional Programme for Oceania 2013-2016

September 2012



1 Regional Programme for Oceania 2013-2016

The IUCN Regional Programme for Oceania 2013-2016 is based on an analysis of country priorities reflected in various country documents and statements, regional policy instruments, such as the Pacific Plan, and emerging themes of broader interest to the region. The Oceania Regional Programme mirrors

The Regional Programme for Oceania 2013-2016 provides a framework for coordinating activities of the IUCN Oceania Secretariat, Commissions and Committees to deliver the IUCN Global Programme 2013-2016. It is based on a situation analysis presented and discussed at the Oceania Regional Conservation Forum in Brisbane in 2011, which highlighted the key environmental issues faced by Oceania countries.

As New Zealand and Australia have well established national Committees and active Commission members who seek to fulfil the fundamental goals of the programme on behalf of IUCN, the principle activities of the IUCN Oceania Regional Office are largely directed towards the developing nations of the Pacific Islands.

Lessons learnt from activities and projects undertaken at local and national levels will be shared regionally and globally, and opportunities for regional or global up-scaling will be explored and developed as appropriate. In particular, lessons learnt in the Pacific will inform IUCN collaboration with other small island developing states (SIDS) on issues of shared concern, such as climate change, conservation of island biodiversity and sustainable natural resource management, including freshwater, coastal and marine resources.

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1.1 Programme Area: Valuing and Conserving Nature

Biological diversity ('biodiversity') is essential for humangicBioTf1.d(-)Tf-0.004 Tc 0.006 T24.9.313 0 Tdb(s)-1(e6)2(e)

IUCN Oceania's Approach

- x** IUCN Oceania will continue to focus on increasing knowledge regarding the conservation status of species in the Oceania Region. Support to strengthen our understanding of the conservation status of species in the Pacific will be a priority, through the IUCN Red List process. This will directly support Pacific Island Countries and Territories in reporting on Aichi Target 12. The Second Pacific Islands Species Forum to be held in 2014 will improve regional collaboration to identify status and gaps in species' knowledge, and work towards on the ground action for conservation and management of threatened species. In addition, IUCN Oceania will support partners in the development of species management plans and tools. These processes will also enhance the Pacific's contribution to global efforts in establishing a Global Red List of Ecosystems.
- x** Protected areas are at the heart of the IUCN Programme. IUCN Oceania will focus its results on broadening national contributions to effective Protected Area management through supporting governments to establish and manage Protected Areas that are representative and include appropriate connectivity approaches. The Australian National Committee and the World Commission on Protected Areas will continue their strong advocacy for both marine and terrestrial protected area systems and for the integration of these systems into wider land and sea scape initiatives for biodiversity, climate change mitigation and adaptation benefits. The Australian National Committee will also continue to promote innovative partnership approaches and governance models for effective conservation, in particular seeking models which enhance cultural, social outcomes as well as ecological outcomes for indigenous people.
- x** In the Pacific, IUCN Oceania will seek to enhance understanding of the mechanisms of community-based protected area management and their contribution to National Protected Area systems, and will seek to refine the application of IUCN categories to these locally-managed areas. Enhancing protected area systems to contribute to the resilience of ecosystems to climate change will be an important focus of these efforts. Special attention will be paid to the establishment of a system of representative marine protected areas at both local and large scales.
- x** IUCN Oceania will identify the economic values of ecosystems and their associated services by using TEEB approaches. The knowledge acquired will be mainstreamed into planning and decision-making processes of national governments. These efforts will consider marine, terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems of the region, with a special focus on the Pacific Mangrove Initiative and Melanesian countries.
- x** IUCN Oceania will, with Members and partners, develop appropriate strategies and programmes to incorporate

1.2 Programme Area: Effective and equitable governance of nature's use

Programme Area:

People everywhere depend directly or indirectly on biodiversity for their well-being. In the Pacific, many millions of people are directly dependent upon natural resources for their daily food, fuel, housing and medicine. The future of all countries of Oceania relies on good governance to ensure the sustainable use of such resources.

Natural resource governance is shaped by the processes that determine how power and responsibilities over the resource are exercised, how decisions are taken, and how citizens – men and women – participate in the management of natural resources. The quality of these decision-making processes is one of the singular most important determinants to the contribution ecosystems make to human well-being and the long-term prospects for successful biodiversity conservation. Sharing power, responsibility and benefits in natural resource management, as well as strengthening governance arrangements, to make decisions more transparent and equitable, are good for people and biodiversity. This is the basis of a just world that is capable of valuing and conserving nature.

The experience gained in Oceania will inform the global IUCN processes seeking to bring together strands of established rights and governance work under a new framework that will help enhance coherency and consistency.

Furthermore, by developing tools and approaches that foster better natural resource governance this Programme Area will help establish the pre-conditions necessary for the achievement of Target 11 (Protected Areas), particularly with respect to recognizing and advancing Locally Managed Areas, as well as Targets 6 and 7 (sustainable management of marine and terrestrial natural resources).

Approach and results

IUCN Oceania's work will demonstrate and inform the development of a robust set of principles, standards and tools, consolidating what already exists, and convening and empowering stakeholders to design solutions that influence policy, governance and action.

Central to this will be the development of a framework for the robust and independent assessment of the status of natural resource governance. This knowledge product will draw on the broad range of social science embodied in the Commission on Environmental, Economic and Social Policy (CEESP), the Commission on Environmental Management (CEM), the Commission on Education and Communication (CEC) and the Commission on Environmental Law (CEL) with the ultimate aim of being the "go-to" resource and standard on natural resource governance in a similar way that The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is the definitive authority on the conservation of

- x** IUCN Oceania will build capacity for leadership and sustainable development in the Pacific. Leaders will be identified and their approaches towards sustainable development will be mainstreamed through innovative approaches and substantial commitments.
- x** IUCN Oceania will build national capacity for Strategic _____ and _____ in selected Pacific Island Countries, in particular with a view to enhancing governance and mitigating the impacts of natural resource extraction, energy development and other development sectors.

1.3 Programme Area: Deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food, development

These are challenging times for the people and governments of Oceania. The recent financial and economic crises and uncertainties have reduced the attention and resources directed to long-term systemic global

populations are resulting in communities not being able to supply sufficient food, fuel, construction material and medicines from inland and coastal resources to meet their needs. If not managed, this will result in increased food and imports dependency and a loss of national wealth. Healthy ecosystems will be productive ecosystems and IUCN Oceania will establish partnerships with communities, governments and other organizations to ensure that nature's provisions in meeting food and livelihood security needs are demonstrated and included in relevant dialogues.

Industries based on minerals and natural resources – (for example mining, fishing, forestry, agricultural and tourism) make significant contributions to the GNP of many countries in Oceania and many generate over 50% of national foreign exchange earnings. Yet, these largely extractive industries have a poor track record in terms of environmental stewardship and fair compensation to affected communities. IUCN Oceania will work to support the sustainable harvesting of living natural resources, to ensure that fisheries, forestry and agricultural practices are carried out in a sustainable and socially equitable manner.

Given that nature-based solutions span other sectors – mobilizing new champions and new resources for biodiversity – they can provide an effective mechanism to support the implementation of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity, particularly Strategic Goal A to mainstream biodiversity across government and society, Strategic Goal B to reduce direct pressures and promote sustainable use and Strategic Goal D to enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystems, specifically:

- Target 2: Values of biodiversity recognized
- Target 5: Habitat loss reduced
- Target 6: Towards sustainable management of fisheries
- Target 7: Sustainable management (agriculture, aquaculture and forestry)
- Target 14: Ecosystems are restored and protected
- Target 15: By 2020, ecosystem resilience enhanced

Nature-based solutions should also contribute to Strategic Goal E to enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building, notably:

- Target 19: Knowledge and technologies improved and shared
- Target 20: Financial resources increased

Approach and results

Using knowledge, capacity and experience, IUCN Oceania will work through its Members, Commission members and partners to ensure that nature-based solutions support the management of natural ecosystems

- x** Ensure that nature-based solutions to climate change are integrated into appropriate regional and national policies and plans including National Climate Change Programmes of Action (NAPAs), Joint National Action Plans (JNAPs) and other climate change related policies and plans
- x** Identify and promote opportunities for capturing and storing carbon within terrestrial and coastal ecosystems in the Pacific, in order to support climate change mitigation supported by various carbon financing mechanisms.
- x** Demonstrate community-managed adaptation and mitigation solutions that enhance resilience of coastal and terrestrial ecosystems to climate change, while properly addressing the rights of local indigenous communities.

- x** Demonstrate incentives for integration of biodiversity and ecosystem services into the operational plans of key Pacific Island public and private sector enterprises.
- x** Encourage innovative financial investments by private sector in biodiversity conservation, for example trust funds, and payment for ecosystem services.
- x** Integrate green-growth approaches in the economic sectors of the Pacific Island countries.
- x** Ensure that private sector agencies adopt environment-related certification schemes to enhance biodiversity conservation.
- x** Increase public and private sector investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency technologies in Pacific Island countries, in order to maintain ecosystem service benefits from biodiversity.