



IUCN Oceania

Species Programme



The Pacific Islands cover almost 15% of the world's surface and is characterised by a high degree of ecosystem and species diversity, and a high level of endemism (often over 90% for particular groups). 248 species are endemic to the Oceania region alone, majority being birds with 119 species. IUCN Oceania works to build on sound knowledge of species distribution and conservation status in the region.

What are the programme's goals?

For the IUCN Oceania Species Programme, activities are centred around three main themes: improving and updating information to feed into a Regional Red List for the Pacific Islands; providing technical capacity for CITES implementation in the region; involvement in the Pacific Invasives Partnership and raising the profile of species issues in the Pacific.

Importance of Programme in the Pacific

A sound knowledge of species found in the region and information on their conservation status and distribution is needed to provide the foundation for making informed decisions to deal with these chal-

lenges and conserve biodiversity at local, regional and global levels. A growing number of national and International Conventions and Agreements now exist, concerned with conserving biodiversity, preserving wetlands and migratory species, and regulating trade in endangered species. Governments and decision-makers need reliable and quality information on the status of biodiversity in order to work together to stem the extinction crisis.

Projects Completed/Planned 2009

1. *IUCN Regional Red List for the Pacific Islands*

The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species provides sound and scientifically credible knowledge on taxo-

conomic status, relative risk of extinction and distribution, and therefore assists countries in identifying areas of conservation need in order to conserve biodiversity (for example: Protected Areas and Sustainable Use). A Red List for the Pacific Islands will be a fundamental tool for conservation work in the region.



Activities completed and underway -

We have completed a review, which looked at the current status of Pacific Islands species on the Red List. The resulting document highlighted areas where efforts need to be focused (geographically and taxonomically) in the region. The document can be downloaded from: http://www.iucn.org/about/union/secretariat/offices/oceania/oro_programmes/oro_species/oro_redlist/ The Analysis, produced in summary form, will largely be used for information and funding purposes. Funding already secured from the Fonds Pacifique will be used for publication and translation of the document.

A full proposal will be submitted to the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund in order to hold specific species workshops and start the process of regional Red Listing. The workshops will increase our knowledge of species in the region and create a more comprehensive list in relation to Pacific Island species. The workshops will take place in partnership between IUCN and relevant members of the Species Survival Commission, as well as other experts, including those from IUCN members such as the National Trust of Fiji and the University of the South Pacific. A number of other partners will also be involved.

2. Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Fauna & Flora (CITES) Capacity Building

Advice and technical capacity is being offered to the Department of Environment, Fiji's State member of IUCN, for the implementation of CITES in Fiji.

Activities underway

Following the securing of funds from the British High Commission in Suva, a user-friendly manual incorporating species ID guides, relevant legislation and worked examples relating to confiscations, is being produced. This will assist in the implementation of CITES in Fiji. The manual will be produced in partner-

ship with the Department of Environment. It is hoped that the manual can be adapted for other Pacific Island Countries following its completion, possibly in partnership with TRAFFIC Oceania.

3. Invasive Species

IUCN Oceania is a member of the Pacific Invasives Partnership, a group of organisations working on invasive species activities, such as management and eradication, in the Pacific Islands. The PIP has two core functions, the Pacific Invasives Initiative and the Pacific Invasives Learning Network. The regional programme has recently created an innovative partnership with the Auckland-based Invasive Species Specialist Group (ISSG) Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP). This partnership will jointly leverage strengths to deliver an integrated programme of work on regional invasive species issues. The ISSG ROP will act as the IUCN Oceania focal point for invasive species and represent IUCN Oceania at relevant invasive species meetings.

Activities underway

We continue to support the ISSG and Pacific Invasives Partnership in delivering its objectives, through raising awareness of invasive species issues, networking and providing reliable invasive species data and information to decision makers.

4. Pacific Species Forum

Raising the profile of species in the Pacific Islands is a priority. A Pacific Species Forum will be organized by IUCN and key partners in 2010 with the aim of providing an opportunity for people (scientists and researchers) to come together biennially and share scientific knowledge relating to species research in the region. The Forum will bring together experts on Pacific flora and fauna to demonstrate the importance of species to our countries, cultures and livelihoods, as well as highlighting the global value of our unique species.

To learn more:

Visit: www.iucn.org/oceania for the latest news on activities or to download publications.

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