



IUCN Oceania

The Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge



The Pacific Ocean is the world's largest natural resource, supporting the enormous biological diversity and ecosystems that directly supports nearly 3 billion people who live in its 56 Pacific Island and Rim countries and territories. IUCN envisions a healthy and bountiful Pacific Ocean that sustains the livelihoods and cultures of the Pacific peoples and contributes significantly to the health and economic vitality of the world.

What are the initiative's goals?

Develop and implement a strategic framework for joint policy, investment and conservation actions by key stakeholders, including Governments, scientific agencies, development agencies, private sector and civil society to address the environmental threats to the Pacific Ocean in a coordinated and cohesive manner.

Importance of initiative in the Pacific

The best scientific research indicates that the health of the Pacific Ocean will decline dramati-

cally due to key threats including pollution, habitat destruction, overfishing – exploitation and climate change. The impact on the sustainability of the Pacific Ocean's resources and ecosystems and the future livelihood of its communities will be devastating if these threats continue unabated. IUCN has responded to this crisis by convening the Pacific Ocean 2020 Challenge in partnership with Pacific Ocean Countries and development partners to focus global attention, build new partnerships and generate the necessary commitments to address the threats to the Pacific Ocean and ensure its sustainability in the medium and long term.



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Activities Completed/Planned 2009

IUCN-Oceania is reaching out to key partners in the Pacific region to develop and implement the Pacific ocean 2020 Challenge. A **Core Planning Group of IUCN Oceania and Centre for Ocean Solutions (COS)** has been established. This group will coordinate, plan and design the implementation of the Pacific 2020 Challenge.

The Pacific Ocean Synthesis Report and Scientific Consensus Statement was launched in collaboration with Centre for Oceans Solutions. The report presents a comprehensive picture of the threats confronting the Pacific Ocean. IUCN will support the distribution of the report and outreach to the Pacific Islands and Rim countries.

There is ongoing engagement with Pacific Islands and Rim Leaders and governments, international/regional agencies, NGOs and the private sector to seek support for the initiative. Consequently the Prime Minister of Tonga and the Governor of California have pledged their support.



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Preliminary work on the preparation of the **Pacific Ocean Report: the Cost of Inaction** has begun, focusing on the economic value of the Pacific Ocean to the Pacific Island Countries. Similar analysis covering all the other regions of the Pacific Ocean is expected to be undertaken before examining the 'costs of inaction' across the Pacific Ocean. When completed, the Pacific Ocean Report: the Cost of Inaction will highlight the economic costs of business as usual, the value of science-based thematic and cross thematic targets to achieve a healthy, productive and sustainable Pacific Ocean. It will also be a call to action and provide the basis for policy briefs and advocacy materials, to better manage the Pacific Ocean. An expert group will be formed to draft the report. This group will comprise thematic specialists and a Project Leader. The report is expected to be completed in 2010.

A Steering Committee for Pacific 2020 will be set up to oversee the production of the Pacific Ocean 2020 Report and the implementation of the other components of the initiative as well as help obtain political support.

A communications specialist will be recruited to initiate and manage a communications strategy for the Pacific 2020. This will include the establishment of a separate logo and website for the initiative.

To learn more:

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

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