



IUCN Oceania

The Pacific Mangroves Initiative



Mangroves occur across the Pacific islands with the world's centre of species biodiversity in Papua New Guinea, and attenuation in diversity to the East. The largest mangrove areas is found in the Melanesia region. In particular, Papua New Guinea supports over 70% of the region's mangrove area with at least 34 obligate species (i.e. found only in mangroves). Pacific Islanders were and still are traditionally coastal resource based, with many early settlements close to mangrove areas. They continue to provide significant social, economic and cultural benefits for the people of the Pacific.

What are the initiatives goals?

Promote sustainable management of mangroves and coastal ecosystems, raise awareness of the value of coastal ecosystem goods and services, including enhanced resilience to climate change and natural disasters (including tsunami and cyclones) and build capacity at all levels to make informed decisions.

The Pacific Mangroves Initiative will be an umbrella initiative to support mangroves and related activities of multiple partners across the Pacific and facilitate synergistic outcomes on the conservation

of mangroves, coastal zone management and the sustainability of the livelihoods of the communities that live in these areas.

Importance of initiative in the Pacific

The mangrove ecosystem is one of the most threatened ecosystems in the Pacific, despite its role in providing many goods and services valued by local communities. Healthy mangroves are also important first line of defence against climate related natural disasters, such as cyclones. Due to the lack of appreciation, poor baseline information about their ecological role and economic importance, and the



The British High Commission has approved \$50K for a scoping exercise to be carried out by the UNDP-PC and the IUCN Oceania. Currently IUCN Oceania is also developing a phase 2 proposal for external funding by the German Government (Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)).

To learn more:

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

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lack of adequate policy and legislative instruments to guide and or constraint their use, mangroves are rapidly disappearing. Implementing integrated governance arrangements over mangroves and associated ecosystems to sustain the multi benefits derived by humans is therefore a key priority for the Pacific region to sustain the livelihoods of Pacific Islanders.

Activities Completed/Planned 2009

To help countries strengthen their mangrove management, IUCN Oceania has been developing a partnership with key Government and Non-Government Organizations in the region, including the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP), and the United National Development Program-Pacific Centre (UNDP-PC) and the Institute of Applied Studies, University of the South Pacific (IAS-USP).

