













## **Second Pacific Islands Species Forum**

University of the South Pacific, Suva, Fiji Monday 6<sup>th</sup>- Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2015

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### **Overview**

The inaugural Pacific Islands Species Forum ("Species Forum") was held in Honiara, Solomon Islands in April 2012. It was jointly organized by IUCN and the Pacific Islands Round Table for Nature Conservation's Species Working Group (PIRT Species Working Group). It provided the first opportunity for scientists, researchers, policy-makers, and conservation practitioners to come together, share their scientific knowledge and research relating specifically to species conservation and prioritize conservation actions in the Pacific.

A set of recommendations for governments and organizations working on species conservation in the Pacific were made by participants. It was anticipated that these would contribute to national and regional planning, as well as understanding of the Convention on Biological Diversity Aichi Targets. One recommendation was that it should become a biennial event with the next Forum scheduled to take place in 2014. In addition, the hosting of the Species Forum would rotate every 2 years.

In July 2014, the Society of Conservation Biology conference was held at the University of the South Pacific (USP) in Suva, Fiji. A "species symposium" linked to the main conference theme of Vulnerable Ecosystems, Communities and Species was led by USP and IUCN in partnership with the PIRT Species Working Group. The symposium provided an opportunity for scientists, researchers, policy makers and conservation practitioners to come together to discuss and share scientific knowledge relating to species research and conservation in the Pacific.

The second Species Forum was again co-organized by IUCN and the 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: Target 5: By 2020, the rate of loss of all natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Target 9: By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Target 11: By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water areas, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Target 12: By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained

Target 19: By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

As an activity of the PIRT Species Working Group, outcomes from the Species Forum can also be fed into the new Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation's Framework for Nature Conservation and

Protected Areas 2014-2020 (especially Objective 4). This framework supports and contributes to the relevant Aichi Biodiversity Targets related to species conservation.

#### **Themes**

Knowledge and Research: Identify current status of knowledge, and conservation actions

Threats: Identify major threats and challenges to conservation

Solutions: Discuss possible solutions and ways forward in terms of conservation efforts and strategies

### **Objectives**

- Identify current species or organism-focused research projects, including how work is being designed, funded, and implemented, and how data is being generated and stored
- Identify critical vulnerable ecosystems, including cultural and agro-ecosystems, the conservation and sustainable use of which, is the foundation of species and genetic diversity conservation in the Pacific Islands
- Identify major threats to species (e.g. trade and use, invasive species, habitat loss and alteration),
   and challenges to our progress in conserving them
- Identify and prioritize the control and management of invasive alien species (IAS) that pose serious threats to species in the Pacific Islands
- Examine progress in meeting species-and ecosystem-related MEA commitments (with a focus on CBD and CITES but noting CMS, Ramsar and World Heritage Convention), and how to overcome challenges
- Identify relevant (Pacific) biological and cultural approaches that can achieve successful species conservation - including prioritization of research and conservation efforts with reference to Pacific Island species-level questions and approaches to resource custodianship
- Assess current baselines for conservation action, and metrics for success, in light of novel ecosystems, patterns of biological invasion, and ecological state-shifts in island systems
- Identify community-based and co-management options for enhancing local awareness of species conservation in the Pacific

#### **Outcomes**

- Integration of species-specific information to government action plans such as NBSAPs and species recovery plans, MEA commitments (Aichi Targets, CITES, CMS), and regional species policies with particular emphasis on enhancing community-based species conservation.
- Input to a roadmap for species conservation/species strategy for the region from 2016-2020 in line with the Framework for Nature Conservation and Protected Areas in the Pacific Islands region 2014-2020 strategy
- Providing a template and mechanism for national species working groups to develop
- Peer-reviewed articles related to information presented
- Data and information available to add to regional databases and input to species recovery plans
- Guidelines for placing species-specific conservation issues in the context of broader socioecological systems across local, regional, and pan-Pacific scales
- Provide input into regional and national IAS management and biosecurity plans
- Raising awareness about species, ecosystems and their conservation needs beyond the scientific and conservation community
- Commitment to actions from organizations/individuals

## **Key points from discussions**

Species Conservation Status		
What is working well?	What is not working?	What can we do better?
1. Bioraps - especially those combining international and local experts 2. Red-list training - excellent for developing networks and knowledge 3. Data from State of Conservation Oceania, and country level government data 4. IUCN Red List 5. Herbariums for storing data	1. Lack of support for museum/herbarium collections. 2. Lack of next steps following Red Listing of species – i.e. what to do with data? How to make it nationally/regionally relevant? 3. Lack of capacity building, training of next generation 4. Convincing policy/decision makers of the importance of species conservation	1. Better/Local/vernacular Field Guides 2. Working through NGOs, with government support and direction 3. Obtaining funds for species 4. Must fill gaps in information on DD species, and work fast on specific conservation actions for CR species 5. Habitat is being lost so quickly and species declines are faster than red list updates - create species sanctuaries to avoid species extinctions in line with Aichi Target 12 6.IUCN Red List – national/regional lists and updates (but needs money)
<b>Ecosystem status</b>		
What is working well?	What is not working?	What can we do better?
1.Current data – State of Conservation Oceania, IBAs, BIORAPs, EBSAs, IUCN/WCMC/WDPA, AZEs, KBAs, Forest cover data, national data held in government departments	1. Local datasets often not stored together and departments often don't communicate or share. Also need to share beyond agency.	<ol> <li>Identify who holds the datasets, then work to break down silos.</li> <li>NBSAP and integrated national planning processes can often facilitate sharing of data – utilize these processes.</li> <li>Provide a one-stop-shop for governments for dealing with data - Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal/BIOPAMA are working to fill gaps and overcome challenges</li> </ol>
Progress in data manage	1	
What is working well?  1. Government engagement and participation in collection, management and storage of data is useful.	What is not working?  1. Verification of data on species identification and sighting records is often problematic - in terms of taxonomic confirmation and due to information coming from different sources.  2. Soliciting and collating records from remote places is a challenge.	What can we do better?  1. Ensuring stakeholders/organizations who are potential sources of species data are aware of where and how data is being used.  2. Longer-term engagement of such stakeholders requires that they receive some feedback/updates on data they have previously contributed.  3. Being able to upload, interact with, and/or analyze data offline is necessary in a number of locations.  4. National standard/Template for data

		5. Hardware/software - to enable
		storage of data, plus interagency
		sharing of data
		6. Increase human and technical
		capacity
		7. Communicate scientific data to
		communities
Networking, opportunit	ios for joining IIICN SCs	Communices
		Miles and the design
What is working well?	What is not working?	What can we do better?
		1. Utilize SGs/local networks:
		-For recovery plans
		-For local actions – i.e. identify species
		of special concern in partnership with
		Red List information
		2. Link SGs together to share
		experiences, ideas, knowledge
		Bringing together researchers and
		experts working in the region should
		be encouraged, and the Species
		Working Group as well as other
		networks such as the Specialist Groups
		of IUCN's Species Survival
		Commission, can do this.
Communicating informa	ation to communities and gov	*
What is working well?	What is not working?	What can we do better?
1. Social media – Facebook,	1. Information sharing amongst	1. Effective communication of success
•		
Twitter	relevant stakeholders	stories
2. Celebrity	2. Mascots – for species	2. Local level field guides to show
2. Celebrity endorsement/people	<ul><li>2. Mascots – for species</li><li>3. Videos</li></ul>	Local level field guides to show collaborative local level work does
2. Celebrity endorsement/people communities can relate to	<ul><li>2. Mascots – for species</li><li>3. Videos</li><li>4. Newspaper articles</li></ul>	2. Local level field guides to show collaborative local level work does help species recovery (highlight
2. Celebrity endorsement/people communities can relate to 3. Species champions on the	<ul><li>2. Mascots – for species</li><li>3. Videos</li><li>4. Newspaper articles</li><li>5. Position papers on websites</li></ul>	2. Local level field guides to show collaborative local level work does help species recovery (highlight success stories through youtube)
2. Celebrity endorsement/people communities can relate to 3. Species champions on the ground, with additional	<ol> <li>Mascots – for species</li> <li>Videos</li> <li>Newspaper articles</li> <li>Position papers on websites</li> <li>Enabling communities to present</li> </ol>	2. Local level field guides to show collaborative local level work does help species recovery (highlight success stories through youtube)  3. Community buy-in and ownership is
2. Celebrity endorsement/people communities can relate to 3. Species champions on the ground, with additional technical support	<ol> <li>Mascots – for species</li> <li>Videos</li> <li>Newspaper articles</li> <li>Position papers on websites</li> <li>Enabling communities to present data to each other to gain sense of</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Local level field guides to show collaborative local level work does help species recovery (highlight success stories through youtube)</li> <li>Community buy-in and ownership is vital from the start – then</li> </ol>
2. Celebrity endorsement/people communities can relate to 3. Species champions on the ground, with additional technical support 4. Peer learning	<ol> <li>Mascots – for species</li> <li>Videos</li> <li>Newspaper articles</li> <li>Position papers on websites</li> <li>Enabling communities to present data to each other to gain sense of ownership and pride – present</li> </ol>	<ol> <li>Local level field guides to show collaborative local level work does help species recovery (highlight success stories through youtube)</li> <li>Community buy-in and ownership is vital from the start – then governments don't need to go back to</li> </ol>
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Conservation actions - planning, species recovery		
What is working well?	What is not working?	What can we do better?
1.Involving communities from		1.Importance of private sector
the outset		involvement – potential
2. Peer-to-peer learning at the		funding/sponsorship
community level		2.Importance of utilizing traditional
		knowledge (TEK) Website to capture
		TEK –IUCN could start?
		3. Feed data and actions into the Red
		List
		4. Challenge of lack of internet for
		communities, so need an organization
		to act as a conduit
<b>Sustainable Use and CIT</b>	ES	
Other threats such as lo	gging, invasive species, clima	nte change
What is working well?	What is not working?	What can we do better?
1.Legislation generally exists	1. Human and technical capacity	1. To better implement CITES in small
for protection of species and	often lacking	countries – pool resources. For
ecosystems against potential	2. Enforcement and will is a huge	example in non-detriment finding
threats	issue	process, learn and share from each
2. Acknowledgement of		other.
livelihoods issues and the		
importance of trade for		
communities		

### Overview of key points

- Many high quality studies are taking place
- Funding for research, generating new data, carrying out conservation actions remains a major challenge – must look at alternative sources
- Continuing discussions and networking is important to share data, research findings, management approaches...
- Must enable data to be fed into governments in order to translate into policies
- Making conservation locally relevant and engaging communities from the outset is vital
- Relevant communication strategies must be used mascots, video for example
- Need to produce national targets/responses related to the Aichi Targets may not be realistic for governments to achieve as they are

## **Recommendations for the PIRT Species Working Group**

#### Is it needed?

Yes, but it must be relevant and effective. We need to focus on achievable activities, due to funding and staffing restraints

#### What is the function?

To enable networking, sharing of information, potential for collaboration, coordination of species conservation efforts

### Who is in the Working Group?

One representative from each PIRT member organization should be nominated to be in the core membership. Anyone with an interest should be encouraged to be a member of the listserv/wider species working group

#### How should it operate?

Re-invigorate the listserv. The core Species Working Group team (reps from IUCN, Birdlife, SPREP and USP) will start it off again. Please use it to share information, news, results, and to generate discussions on species issues.

#### What activities should be carried out?

Aside from the listserv, the key activity of the SWG should be a biennial Pacific Islands Species Forum.

- PIRT members should take turns hosting, and the core team will assist with organization and looking for funding/host support
- Possibility for USP to host in 2017, potentially on another campus, such as Port Vila need another partner to commit to hosting in 2020.
- Collate PIRT member activities and feed to govts to see where gaps are in meeting targets Issue of who to do this, and funds available? Intern? USP?

## Agenda

# Monday 6<sup>th</sup> July

Time	Title	Who
8:00 - 9:00	Registration	IUCN
9:00 - 9:45	Opening and welcome	Species Working Group
	Introduction to the Forum and objectives	
	Perspectives on species research and knowledge	
	Presentations on knowledge and research	•
9:45 - 10:00	Biogeography and Conservation Systematics of Pacific Iguanas	Rob Fisher, USGS
	(Brachylophus sp.)	
10:00 - 10:15	Phylogeography, Species Distribution Modelling, Mitochondrial	Tamara Osborne-
	Genome Evolution and Conservation of the Fijian frogs	Naikatini, USP
	(Ceratobatrachidae)	
10:15 - 10:30	Saving the Manumea and its habitat	Moeumu Uilli, MNRE,
		Samoa
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea	
	Presentations on knowledge and research	
11:00 - 11:15	An overview of IUCN's Red List	Dr Jane Smart, IUCN
		Species Programme
11:15 - 11:30	Status of restricted-range endemic mammals in the Solomon	Diana Fisher, University
	Islands	of Queensland
11:30 - 11:45	Can oceanic island endemic tree snails survive the	Cindy Bick, University of
	Anthropocene?	Michigan
11:45 - 12:00	Disappearing Jewels: An Urgent Need for Conservation of Fiji's	Gilianne Brodie, USP
	Unique Partulid Tree Snail Fauna	
12:00 - 12:15	Mapping Climate change factors against key Turtle Nesting &	Laitia Tamata, WWF
	Foraging habitats along the Great Sea Reef, Fiji	
12:15 - 12:30	Synthesis of disparate data sources to develop a baseline of	Cara Miller, USP
	cetacean diversity and occurrence	
12:30 - 14:00	LUNCH	
	Government perspectives on species data	
14:00 - 14:15	Implementation of NBSAP and Aichi Targets, and the state of	Juney Ward, MNRE,
	conservation: Perspectives from Samoa	Samoa
14:15 - 14:30	State of species and ecosystem management: perspectives	Dorothy Foliaki,
	from Tonga	MEECDM, Tonga
14:30 - 14:45	Generating and storing data for conservation action:	Eleni Tokaduadua,
	perspectives from Fiji	Department of
		Environment, Fiji
14:45 - 15:00	The unique flora of the Solomon Islands: from a Herbarium	Myknee Sirokolo,
	perspective	Ministry of Forestry,
		Solomon Islands
15:00 - 15:45	Breakout discussions:	All
	1. Assessing species' conservation status	
	2. Assessing the state of ecosystems	
	3. Progress in data management and storage	

15:45 - 16:00	Afternoon tea	
16:00 - 16:15	Report back on group discussions (5 minutes per group)	All
16:15 - 16:30	Opportunities for networking and information exchange in the Pacific -Introduction to PIRT's Action Strategy as a foundation for outcomes of the Species WG, including how other WGs are structured	PIRT
	-Opportunities for other networks: Activating the Species Survival Commission (SSC) in Oceania and engaging more experts from the Pacific in SSC Specialist Groups /setting up national species Working Groups	Simon Stuart, IUCN SSC and Nunia Thomas, NFMV
16:30 - 17:30	Breakout discussions 1. How to increase involvement in the SSC in the Pacific 2. How to structure a relevant and effective Species Working Group	All
17:30 - 17:45	Recap and thoughts of the day	Simon Stuart, IUCN SSC
18:00 onwards	Opening Cocktail	All – at USP

## Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> July

Time	Title	Who?
	Threats to species: trade and sustainable use	
8:45 - 9:30	Speeches on wildlife trade and sustainable use	
	Introduction	SPREP
	Keynote on CITES – video link to John Scanlon	CITES Secretariat
	Supporting CITES with technical capacity – perspectives from IUCN	Jane Smart, IUCN
	Species in Trade	
9:30 - 9:45	Species in trade – Humphead Wrasse	Aisaki Batibasaga,
		Department of
		Fisheries, Fiji
9:45 - 10:00	Species in trade – birds	Barnabas Wilmott, PNG
		government
10:00 - 10:15	Species in trade – giant clams	Rose Babaua, Solomon
		Islands government
10:15 - 10:30	Species in trade – sharks and rays	Pew/Manta Trust
		Daniel Fernando
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea	
	Perspectives on trade and CITES	
11:00 - 11:15	The role of CITES as an effective tool for regulating trade and	Haruko Okusu, CITES
	promoting sustainable use	Secretariat
11:15 - 11:30	Perspectives on trade	Juney Ward, Samoan
		government
11:30 - 11:45	Perspectives on trade	Primrose Malosu,
		Vanuatu government
11:45 - 12:00	Perspectives on trade from a non-Party	Dorothy Foliaki, Tongan
		government

12:00 - 12:15	Perspectives on trade from a trade partner and the role of NDFs	Shaneen Coulson,
		Australian government
12:15 - 12:30	Perspectives on trade from a consumer country	Stan Shea, BLOOM
12:30 - 13:00	Q and A	
13:00 - 14:00	LUNCH	
	Threats to species (continued)	
14:00 - 14:15	The threat of climate change to Pacific Island biodiversity	Liz Dovey, ANU
14:15 - 14:30	The threat of invasive alien species on Pacific Island	Randy Thaman, USP
	biodiversity, and the need for biosecurity plans	
14:30 - 14:45	Q and A on the response to invasive species and the need for	All
	biosecurity	
14:45 - 15:00	The importance of alleviating threats: an example from	David Boseto, Ecological
	Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands	Solutions Solomon
		Islands
15:00 - 15:15	Government perspective on responding to threats to	Rose Babaua, Solomon
	ecosystems	Islands government
15:15 - 15:30	Q and A	
15:30 - 16:00	Afternoon tea	
16:00 - 17:00	Plenary discussion:	All
	1. Leveraging information generated by practitioners - linking	
	data to communities and governments	
17:00 - 17:15	Recap and thoughts of the day	Simon Stuart, IUCN SSC
18:00 onwards	Cocktail	Pew, Manta Trust and
		BLOOM
		Venue - USP

# Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> July

Time	Title	Who
Responses and Solutions		
9:00 – 9:30	Keynote Speech: Conservation Actions and Planning	Simon Stuart, IUCN
9:30 - 9:45	Building Synergies between Modern Scientific Knowledge (MSK)	Randy Thaman
	and Indigenous and Local Knowledge (ILK) to assess and	
	develop policy to address biodiversity loss	
	Conservation actions	
9:45 - 10:00	Conservation action- Fijian acmopyle propagation	NatureFiji/MareqetiViti
10:00 - 10:15	A Species Survival Plan Program for the Fijian Banded Iguana	Kim Lovich, San Diego
	(Brachylophus bulabula)	Zoo
10:15 - 10:30	Species Recovery Milestones – progressing the conservation of	Mark O'Brien, Birdlife
	the most threatened bird species in the Pacific	International
10:30 - 11:00	Morning Tea and networking	
11:15 - 11:30	Management plans for sharks and rays	Ian Campbell, WWF
11:30 - 11:45	Incentives for conservation- a case study of manta ray tourism	The Manta Trust
	in Fiji	
11:45 - 12:00	Presentation on 4FJ movement	Scott Radway, Seaweb
Empowering communities for conservation action		

12:00 - 12:15	The collapse and recovery of a species-rich tropical molluscan	Randy Thaman, USP
	fishery: A case study on the locally managed marine area of	,
	Vanua Navakavu, Fiji.	
12:15 - 12:30	Engaging communities in species conservation action: Saving	NatureFiji/MareqetiViti
	the Fiji petrel – Fiji's only endemic seabird	
12:30 - 12:45	Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership: a	Senoveva Mauli, SICCP
	collaborative approach to enhancing local awareness of species	
	conservation within the Western Province Network, Solomon	
	Islands	
12:30 - 13:30	LUNCH and networking	
13:30 - 15:30	Further opportunities for networking	
	Finalization of recommendations/next steps by Drafting	Species Working Group
	Committee	
15:30 -16:00	Afternoon tea	
16:00 - 16:15	CEPF EMI – opportunities for species conservation in the East	Helen Pippard, IUCN
	Melanesian Islands Hotspot	
16:15 -16:30	"Meaningful measurable" – reviewing the use of biodiversity	Cara Miller, USP
	indicators used by PICTs in environmental reporting	
16:30 -16:45		Chris Filardi
16:45 -17:00	Report back from Species Working Group on outcomes of the	Helen Pippard
	Forum	
17:00	Closing remarks	Taholo Kami, IUCN
18:00 onwards	Closing cocktail	Fiji Museum, Thurston
		Gardens

### **Abstracts**

Biogeography and Conservation Systematics of Pacific Iguanas (*Brachylophus* sp.)

Fisher, Robert<sup>1</sup>, Jone Niukula<sup>2</sup>, Heidi Davis<sup>3</sup> and Peter Harlow<sup>4</sup>
<sup>1</sup>U.S. Geological Survey, San Diego, USA
<sup>2</sup>The National Trust of Fiji, Suva, Fiji
<sup>3</sup>San Diego Zoo Institute for Conservation Research, San Diego, USA
<sup>4</sup>Taronga Conservation Society Australia, NSW, Australia

Tongan biodiversity and have a long history in the region. At least two species have become extinct, and now iguanas are rare or absent from many islands. There are three living species in the genus as currently described. Over the last decade we have surveyed for iguana populations on many of the islands in Fiji and collected genetic and morphological samples from many of these relict populations. Analysis of these data indicates that there is a much greater diversity of iguanas still extant in Fiji. Many of these are apparently now single island endemics, probably due to extirpations of nearby populations, and most or all would be considered critically endangered. Overall these data support that there was a much greater distribution and species diversity in the genus in the recent past and continued investigation of unsampled islands is a critical priority. This information is vitally important to setting conservation goals and strategies, as the conservation focus from 1980 -2005 was primarily on crested iguanas, whereas assumptions about "banded" iguanas was that their extinction risks were relatively low. Description of this new diversity is currently underway, but risks to this diversity remain great. Fiji's frogs are unique in many ways. First, the two Cornufer (Subgenus

Pacific iguanas (genus Brachylophus) are enigmatic element of Fijian and

Phylogeography, Species
Distribution Modelling,
Mitochondrial Genome
Evolution and Conservation of
the Fijian frogs
(Ceratobatrachidae)

Tamara Osborne-Naikatini, USP

Fiji's frogs are unique in many ways. First, the two *Cornufer* (Subgenus *Cornufer*) species, *C. vitianus* and *C. vitiensis* are the easternmost extent of any native amphibian species in the South Pacific islands. Second, these are the only frogs endemic to the Fijian archipelago. Third, there is distinct genetic divergence between certain island populations, which would suggest that insular isolation has led to evolution of multiple, additional species. And last, Fijian Ceratobatrachids have a unique mtDNA genomic rearrangement which sets them apart from other anuran species. These characteristics along with traits that identify other Ceratobatrachid frogs (polymorphic colouration, terrestrial breeding, unique characteristics of larval development, calling patterns), make for a particularly interesting branch of the anuran tree of life. In this dissertation I re-characterise the conservation status of the Fijian frogs using geo-spatial and genetic analyses.

The evolutionary distinctiveness of the Taveuni Island *C. vitianus* and the ancestral source populations on Vanua Levu are highlighted in the geospatial and genetic analyses. The whole mitochondrial genome, ribosomal and cytochrome *b* markers, and nuclear data suggest that the Taveuni Island populations are genetically distinct, at least to the level of sub-species. Populations of *Cornufer* (both Fiji ground and Fiji tree frogs) on Vanua Levu Island are possible source populations for the other islands in the Fiji group, and could well be the founding population of the putative *Cornufer* colonizing ancestor. Conservation efforts directed towards the Taveuni and Vanua Levu Island populations of Cornufer would inevitably safeguard two levels of genetic distinctiveness: ancestral genotypes with a possible evolutionary history of hybridization (and the capacity for generating transgressive phenotypes), as well as a

	divergent population of <i>Cornufer vitianus</i> , a species recognised on the current IUCN Red List as endangered.
Saving the Manumea and its habitat  Moeumu Uili <sup>1</sup> , Fialele Enoka <sup>1</sup> , Czarina Stowers <sup>1</sup> , Rebecca Stirnemann <sup>2</sup> MNRE <sup>1</sup> , Apia, Samoa Australian National University <sup>2</sup> , Canberra, ACT, Australia	The Manumea or tooth-billed pigeon is found only in Samoa and is the last surviving member of its genus. It is currently listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN and numbers are likely to be very low. Our study attempted to locate the last remaining populations of Manumea so conservation efforts can be focused to key areas. We are also collecting information on the basic breeding biology (eg. whether nesting occurring low to the ground or in trees) and the spatial requirements of this species are determined so threats can be established and conservation management can be implemented. Under the CLP we began our search for sites where the Manumea could still be found using a mix of ground search techniques and interviews with local people. Our work unearthed new locations for the species, novel information on the species and found a juvenile bird indicating breeding still occurs. Our work is continuing as we seek to reveal more about the breeding biology of the species and its spatial requirements. To achieve this we are adding the first radio transmitters. This will allow us to develop management plans for the conservation of this last genus.
Myknee Sirokolo, Ministry of Forestry, Solomon Islands	
Status of restricted-range endemic mammals in the Solomon Islands  Diana Fisher, Tyrone Lavery, Corzzierrah Posala, & Patrick Pikacha	Twenty-five species of fruit- and nectar- eating bats (flying foxes in the family Pteropodidae) are native to rainforests of the Solomon Islands. Nearly 60% are threatened or data deficient. Six of the seven native rodents are threatened, and very rarely recorded. Logging, mining and human population growth have increased substantially since the 1990s. We suspected that habitat loss, and potentially also hunting have caused declines of mammals during the last 20 years. We compared past and present mist-net captures at eight sites on three islands, half of which have been logged since our initial surveys in the 1990s, to assess changes in the status of flying foxes including the endangered New Georgia monkey-faced bat <i>Pteralopex taki</i> . We report on results of this experiment, camera trapping to detect and document the behaviour of threatened arboreal mammals, and our recent expeditions to search for rare, potentially extinct, and poorly known species. Some of the main results are: 1) We have rediscovered the New Georgia monkey-faced bat on the island of Kolombangara, where it had been thought extinct. This species can persist after logging, although captures declined at previously-surveyed sites. 2) Captures of the vulnerable dwarf flying fox <i>Pteropus woodfordi</i> have not declined, but the endemic blossom bat <i>Melonycteris fardoulisi</i> (currently least concern) has declined by 75% in 23 years. 3) We have found one non-threatened rodent on an island where it was not previously known (Makira). 4) We confirm the conservation value of community conservation areas and historic kastom sites (former villages in old growth forest) for threatened mammals
Monkey-faced bat extant on Kolombangara Island	Pteralopex taki was presumably <u>extinct</u> on <u>Kolombangara</u> Island because of <u>habitat loss</u> and hunting. However, new surveys done in February 2015 confirms that this species of megabat does survive on Kolomabangara.

Ferguson Vaghi, KIBCA	Robust conservation actions taken by the Indigenous Association can salvage the extinction of this megabat.
	In February 2015, as part of <u>a project to resurvey Diana and Liz's 1992</u> <u>field sites</u> Mr Tyrone Levery from the University of Queensland(UQ),
	along with rangers from the Kolombangara Island Biodiversity
	Conservation Association (KIBCA) captured six individuals of monkey-
	faced bats at the same sites that had been surveyed in 1992. The overall
	capture was a remarkable result for a naturally uncommon species.
	Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation (KIBCA) is an indigenous
	Community base organization founded in 2008. Our objective is on
	promoting Conservation and sustainable resources Management. The
	Association had worked with various researchers to discover the islands
	unique biodiversity that helps in the management of our rich resources.
	Revelation of the presence of this endemic megabats on Kolombangara
	Island demands that truly local action can salvage the extinction of
	species including monkey faced-bats on Kolombangara Island.
Can oceanic island endemic tree	The deliberate introduction of the carnivorous Rosy Wolf Snail
snails survive the	(Euglandina rosea) to the Society Islands in the 1970's led to a mass
Anthropocene?	extirpation of its rich Partulidae fauna. On Tahiti, ongoing field surveys
	have encountered scattered remnant populations of two closely related
Cindy S. Bick & Diarmaid Ó	endemic species, <i>Partula clara</i> and/or <i>Partula hyalina</i> , in 38 valleys. <i>E.</i>
Foighil	rosea is responsible for the extinction of terrestrial snail species across
	Oceania and understanding why these Tahitian taxa have survived may
	have conservation import across the region. A null hypothesis states that
	they endured because they were the most abundant and/or widespread
	species and that they too, will eventually be driven to extinction.
	Although we lack demographic data contemporaneous with <i>E. rosea</i> 's
	introduction, an early 20 <sup>th</sup> century study by H. E. Crampton contains a wealth of demographic information about intact Tahitian <i>Partula</i>
	populations. His data show that <i>P. clara</i> and <i>P. hyalina</i> were widespread
	in valleys but were consistently much rarer than now-extirpated co-
	occurring congeners. Crampton also recorded clutch sizes for individual
	gravid snails and his data show that <i>P. clara</i> and <i>P. hyalina</i> consistently
	had higher instantaneous mean clutch sizes. Higher fecundities may have
	contributed to their persistence in Tahiti's valleys and we are currently
	looking at the possible role of ecological factors in that survival.
Gilianne Brodie, USP	Disappearing Jewels: An Urgent Need for Conservation of Fiji's Unique
Smalline Brodie, OSI	Partulid Tree Snail Fauna
Mapping Climate change factors	Sea turtles preferred habitats have been found to be closely tied to
against key Turtle Nesting &	climatic variables. The cumulative indications from previous studies
Foraging habitats along the	indicate that future research should include climate change effects on
Great Sea Reef, Fiji	key habitats upon which turtles depend and the effect at sea. Coastal
	shifts, change in temperature, seagrass abundances and nesting
Laitia Tamata, WWF	populations were assessed in key sites along the Great Sea Reef (GSR)
,	across Bua and Macuata Provinces. Aerial maps were acquired from the
	Fiji Lands Surveys and SOPAC for the last decade, digitized and the over-
	layed to detect coastal changes. Temperature loggers were placed at
	about 5-8m underneath seawater in 2012 to monitor the changes in 5
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benefit of turtle conservation in Fiji and for the Pacific.  Synthesis of disparate data sources to develop a baseline of cetacean diversity and	
sources to develop a baseline of cetacean diversity and	
cetacean diversity and	
occurrence	
Cara Miller, USP	
Targeted Reef Fish	
Species Catch & Spawning	
Potential Survey Latia Tamata,	
WWF	
Implementation of NBSAP and	
Aichi Targets, and the state of	
conservation: Perspectives from	
Samoa	
Samoan government	
State of species and ecosystem	
management: perspectives	
from Tonga	
Tongan government	
Generating and storing data for	
conservation action:	
perspectives from Fiji	
Fiji government	
Species in trade – Humphead	
Wrasse	
Fiji government	
Species in trade – birds	
PNG government  Species in trade giant clams	
Species in trade – giant clams Solomon Islands government	
Species in trade – sharks and	
rays Pew/Manta Trust	
The role of CITES as an effective	
tool for regulating trade and	
promoting sustainable use	
Haruko Okusu, CITES Secretariat	
Perspectives on trade	
Samoan government	
Perspectives on trade	

Vanuatu government	
Perspectives on trade	
Tongan government	
Perspectives on trade	
Australian government	
Perspectives on trade from the	The Chinese have forever been recognized as one of the key traders and
Shark fin Capital city: Hong Kong Stan Shea, BLOOM	consumers of shark fin, with Hong Kong being one of the greatest trading hubs of shark fins worldwide, and shark fin soup being regarded as a core dish of celebration banquets in the culture. However, increased awareness for shark and marine-related conservation topics have led to a
	potential reduction in will to consume. BLOOM's sociological surveys on Hong Kong's shark fin-related consumption habits and attitudes (first conducted in 2009 and repeated in 2014) discovered that by 2014,
	almost 70% of respondents had either reduced or completely stopped their consumption of shark fin soup. Furthermore, 80% of these people had cited "environmental concerns" as the reasons behind their change in consumption. At the same time, the level government and various
	in consumption. At the same time, the local government and various transporting companies are investing more and more effort in regulating
	the trade of shark fin-related products at ports, especially in the ability to identify and prosecute/refuse illegal trades of CITES listed species.
	Through continuous education and training for Hong Kong's people, local
	practices in shark fin-related consumption and trade may eventually achieve "sustainability".
Being on tropical islands	Island biodiversity faces a range of significant threats even without a
compounds climate change	changing climate. Island species are particularly vulnerable to a range of
threats to Pacific Island	, , , ,
	common invasive species ranging from rats and ants to vines.
biodiversity	Overharvesting of preferred species for food, culture or livelihoods can
Lia Daviev Farmar Sahaal of	also threaten survival. Pacific Islands vary in area and isolation, but are
Liz Dovey, Fenner School of	always smaller, remoter and with smaller human populations than their
Environment and Society,	neighbouring continental masses. Species that live on those Islands are
Australian National University	more likely to be endemic and specialised than their continental cousins.  Why do these facts matter? Endemicity makes the fate of species
	globally significant, regardless of their local ecosystemic functional role.  The other traits make them more vulnerable to climate change than
	continental species, particularly when impacts interact and compound or are exacerbated by other causes of change. Other factors such as
	different island physical and socio-political attributes will also make a difference to species vulnerability.
	Changing intensity and/or frequency of extreme events increases
	chances of step changes in ecosystem structure and function, sometimes
	transforming systems permanently. The fate of individual species will
	depend on their ability to cope with the extent of change faced. Invasive
	species, being by nature more tolerant and adaptable, are likely to be
	more resilient to such shocks and may thrive at the cost of native species.
	Our ability to anticipate and even detect such changes at the species
	level across the Pacific is limited. Not only is detailed information on
	likely impacts limited, but detailed basic ecological knowledge is also
	lacking for many tropical species, partly as a consequence of remoteness

	and small human populations, so indirect impacts are less likely to be recognised. Rich opportunities await keen ecologists in this rapidly developing field.
The threat of invasive alien	
species on Pacific Island	
biodiversity, and the need for	
biosecurity plans	
Randy Thaman, USP	
Government perspective on the	
response to invasive species	
and the need for biosecurity	
Fiji government	
The importance of alleviating	The island of Choiseul is rich in natural resources and is a relatively intact
threats: an example from	environment compared to the other provinces in the Solomon Islands. In
Choiseul Province, Solomon	terms of environmental sustainability, maintaining healthy ecosystems
Islands	offers the stage whereby upcoming food production and economies may
David Boseto, Ecological	be based. Appreciating this necessity of better understanding it's
Solutions Solomon Islands	environment, the Choiseul Provincial Government placed as one of its
	mid term goals in the period of 2012-2014 to document historical,
	cultural and ethniobiological data. A component of this was to undertake
	a biodiversity survey to increase understand of Choiseul Island's
	ecosystem.
	In collaboration with important stakeholders, Ecological Solutions –
	Solomon Islands (ESSI) a local organization lead an expedition from the
	lower Kolobangara River to the central Choiseul mountains. As a result of
	these surveys new lists of species were added for Choiseul Island. A total
	of 58 species of birds were recorded at two sites. There were 219
	individuals from 16 species of frogs, and five species of snakes, and 20
	species of lizards. Some frog species were new to science. There were 13
	mammals recorded during the expedition, including one marsupial, one rodent and 11 bats.
	There is need to continue to survey the headwaters and tributories of the
	Kolobangara River, essentially resulting in a management plan for this
	important aquatic ecosystem. There are serious threats to the forests of
	Choiseul. Logging activities above the Kolobangara River and surrounding
	forests threaten biodiversity and access to clean streams. Logging has
	also had a detrimental impact by silting rivers and streams, reducing
	water ways, increasing suspended solids in the water, and threatening
	organisms that depend on clean water. For example, species of frogs like
	Discodeles guppyi, and other species of freshwater gobbies. It is
	anticipated that this report may assist the Choiseul Provincial
	Government and landowners and support development opportunities
	that are less destructive and that maintain ecosystem functions.
Government perspective on	
responding to threats to	
ecosystems	
Solomon Islands government	
Conserving the Fiji Acmopyle – a	Acmopyle, a genus of conifers, is well known in the Gondwanaland fossil

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Ian Campbell,	WWF

decline. According to a comprehensive study led by the Shark Specialist Group of the IUCN, nearly 25% of all sharks, rays and chimeras are threatened with extinction primarily due to overfishing, whether targeted or incidental. Species are also under threat due to continued loss & degradation of critical habitats such as spawning & nursery areas, feeding grounds and lack of protection for aggregating areas.

Successful development of long-term, sustainable management plans in the Pacific are being hindered by a lack of available species data. WWF is developing an innovative project to assist countries to acquire and analyse data using a variety of novel and inventive techniques that will provide fisheries managers with information on which to develop conservation management measures.

WWF is developing this project in partnership with the IUCN Shark Specialist Group, leading elasmobranch research organisations, regional CROP agencies and NGO partners.

Incentives for conservation- a case study of manta ray tourism in Fiji

The Manta Trust

The Manta Trust is a global collaboration between marine biologists, conservationists, activists and educators who are deeply concerned about the future of manta and mobula rays. By conducting sound, novel research using a multidisciplinary approach, we seek to learn more about these species, create the groundwork for effective management solutions for mobulid rays and their habitats, and use this knowledge to educate the public through community outreach and awareness programs. Here we provide an overview of the Manta Trust's projects, focusing more specifically on our work in the South Pacific and the Manta Trust's plans to expand in this region. The Fiji Manta Ray Project, based in the Yasawas islands, was established to investigate the population size and structure of the fijian manta rays, define migration patterns, investigate the black morphs, assess anthropogenic impacts and effects created from the growing manta ray tourism. In 2014, more than 5,600 tourists visited one single site in the Yasawas to swim with manta rays, generating almost US\$ 25,000 as income from this activity to just one resort. It is estimated that globally, the direct economic benefit of manta tourism is US\$ 140 million annually, with a growing trend. However, it is vital to manage manta tourism carefully to ensure its sustainability for the species and people. The Manta Trust is currently initiating new projects in New Caledonia and French Polynesia, in collaboration with local institutions, with a focus on sustainable tourism development.

## 4FJ movement Scott Radway, Seaweb

Empowering communities through long-term sea turtle monitoring: sets Fiji up for reliable long term management of sea turtle population along the Great Sea Reef Empowering traditional fishermen promotes long term protection of sea turtle population. Sea turtles in Fiji are referred to as delicacy and importantly a cultural totem to many of the coastal provinces. Fifty five local fishermen of the identified hawksbill and green nesting sites along the Great Sea Reef are now turtle monitors. Recent satellite telemetry results illustrated the Great Sea Reef (GSR)as an important feeding grounds for hawksbill, green and loggerhead turtles. These fishermen

Laitia Tamata, WWF	were once turtle hunters equipped with immense traditional knowledge in sea turtles habitats, habits, sea turtle recipes and hunting skills. Establishing turtle monitoring programme along the two provinces of Bua and Macuata, along the GSR, has enhanced the initiative in the long-term protection of sea turtles. The 55 turtle monitors in place are now spearheading sea turtle conservation and protection along the GSR. Interests from associated communities had increased, leading to the extension of the turtle network. An increase in tagging, protection of nesting and feeding sites, decrease in illegal harvesting of sea turtles, advocacy on sea turtles protection and awareness have manifested in the improvement of baseline information. Being granted a mandate as fish warden enabled turtle monitors to better their roles by means of enforcing existing legislations. The existing turtle monitoring programme is creating vast sea turtle conservation awareness throughout Fiji. Maintaining support from Regional Organizations, Government, NGOs and institutions is a continuing challenge in this stage as we look to having nesting beaches and grazing grounds be part of Protected Area Networks.
The collapse and recovery of a	Networks.
species-rich tropical molluscan fishery: A case study on the locally managed marine area of Vanua Navakavu, Fiji. Randy Thaman, USP	
Engaging communities in species conservation action: Saving the Fiji petrel – Fiji's only endemic seabird NatureFiji/MareqetiViti	
Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership: a collaborative approach to enhancing local awareness of species conservation within the Western Province Network, Solomon Islands	Solomon Islands Community Conservation Partnership (SICCP) established as a local NGO in 2007, have developed long-term partnerships with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) such as Tetepare Descendants Association (TDA), Kolombangara Island Biodiversity Conservation Association (KIBCA) and Zaira and Mbiche Communities in the Marovo Lagoon.
Senoveva Mauli, SICCP	Through funding support from the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH) and the University of Queensland (UQ), activities on the ground have proven successful through local institutional governance capacity development, biological monitoring trainings with local rangers, protected areas management and development assistance, ongoing school awareness at the community schools, and the ongoing efforts to promoting conservation within the Network.
CEPF EMI – opportunities for	
species conservation in the East	
Melanesian Islands Hotspot	
IUCN Oceania	
"Meaningful measurable" –	

reviewing the use of	
biodiversity indicators used by	
PICTs in environmental	
reporting	
Cara Miller, USP	
Building Synergies between	
Modern Scientific Knowledge	
(MSK) and Indigenous and Local	
Knowledge (ILK) to assess and	
develop policy to address	
biodiversity loss	
Randy Thaman	

## **Participant List**

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