

Developing Capacity for a Protected Planet in the Pacific



Photo: Paul Dingwall

BIOPAMA – Biodiversity and Protected Areas Management

BIOPAMA is a programme aimed at improving the long-term conservation of biodiversity in Africa, the Caribbean and Pacific (ACP countries) by promoting the use of the best available science and knowledge and building capacity to strengthen policy and decision-making on biodiversity conservation and protected areas management (terrestrial and marine). The Protected Areas component of BIOPAMA is implemented jointly by IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and EC-JRC (European Commission Joint Research Centre) and is an initiative of the ACP Secretariat funded by the European Union under the 10th European Development Fund.



Photo: Christophe-Laïchouchen

BIOPAMA in the Pacific - People, Islands, Ocean

Long-standing cultural and spiritual foundations link Pacific peoples with their island homes, coastal waters and oceanic pathways. Nature is sustenance and a central element of island identity, society and daily livelihood. Natural resources across the Pacific are not only used, but customarily owned, governed and managed by indigenous and local communities. Remote island groups are ecologically rich with exceptionally high numbers of plant and bird species found nowhere else. The landmass of ACP countries scattered across the Pacific covers a mere 2% within 20 million km² of combined national Exclusive Economic Zones - vast and immeasurably valuable ocean expanses. However, like many developing regions, the natural environment and the communities of the Pacific face unprecedented pressures driven by climate change, urban population growth, over-exploitation of land and marine resources and invasive species.

BIOPAMA recognises that appropriate information and adequate technical capacity are fundamental to ensuring that national and regional development decisions to address these challenges are sustainable in the long-term and do not compromise the natural resources and ecosystem services that are the basis for livelihoods and survival.

Protected areas exist in many forms in the Pacific region. They play a crucial role in safeguarding natural assets, and therefore it is vital that decisions affecting protected areas are informed by the most reliable, comprehensive and up-to-date information available.



Photo: Richard Wylie

Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal

The Pacific Islands Protected Area Portal, PIPAP, is hosted by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and supported by BIOPAMA.

The Portal is a **regional resource hub** to support effective and sustainable management of protected areas and biodiversity in the region.

This includes relevant **information**, data and analyses as well as the capacity to use and interpret this information. It will also **facilitate networking of experts and institutions** and **coordinate technical and policy support to national agencies and regional organisations**. The resulting improved policy and decision making will boost protected areas, and in turn a country's biodiversity management.

The Portal has the following functions:

- 1) **Data and Information:** Enable access to useful protected area data and information from diverse sources, and provide clear and accessible indicators, reports, maps and analysis tools to help evaluate decisions which impact on protected areas, from the local level to national and regional.

- 2) **Capacity building:** Strengthen and institutionalise technical capacity of government decision makers, protected area managers and stewards.
- 3) **Policy support:** Provide policy support to national and regional decision-makers, especially for the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements (MEAs) such as the Convention on Biological Diversity Programme of Work on Protected Areas.
- 4) **Networking and communications:** Strengthen networking and sharing amongst protected area practitioners to enhance the uptake and use of information and tools for decision-making.



Photo: Stuart Chape

PIPAP: Connecting people, knowledge and information

The Regional Reference Information System (RRIS)

The PIPAP includes a Regional Reference Information System, RRIS, – a gateway to data and decision support tools for biodiversity and protected area management.

The RRIS gives access to useful data and information from diverse sources, and provides clear and accessible indicators, reports, maps and analysis tools to help evaluate decisions which impact on protected areas, from the local level to national and regional.

BIOPAMA is not just about delivering facts and figures – the programme is providing support to protected area managers, partners, government and communities to better use the data and information tools, for improved policy and decision-making which affect protected areas and the biodiversity they seek to conserve.



Photo: Helen Pippard



Photo: William Goodwin



Photo: Jerker Tamelander

BIOPAMA Capacity Development Programme

The Pacific Islands region is remarkably diverse geographically, culturally and biologically which presents many challenges to resource managers. Providing learning and knowledge sharing opportunity to those most closely connected to the land and sea is critically important.

As stewards of the land, inshore areas and natural resources, local communities are fundamental in achieving wise resource management. BIOPAMA will also equip protected area professionals and organisations, government staff and institutions, and others who have influence in how biodiversity and protected areas are managed, with the specialised skills they need.

BIOPAMA is supporting, delivering and developing a variety of capacity development opportunities including vocational training, thematic workshops, on-line resources, regionally appropriate tertiary curricula and mentoring. The **Pacific Capacity Development Action Plan for Biodiversity Conservation and Protected Areas** establishes specific activities to build and strengthen a broad cadre of capable regional practitioners.

Where we work

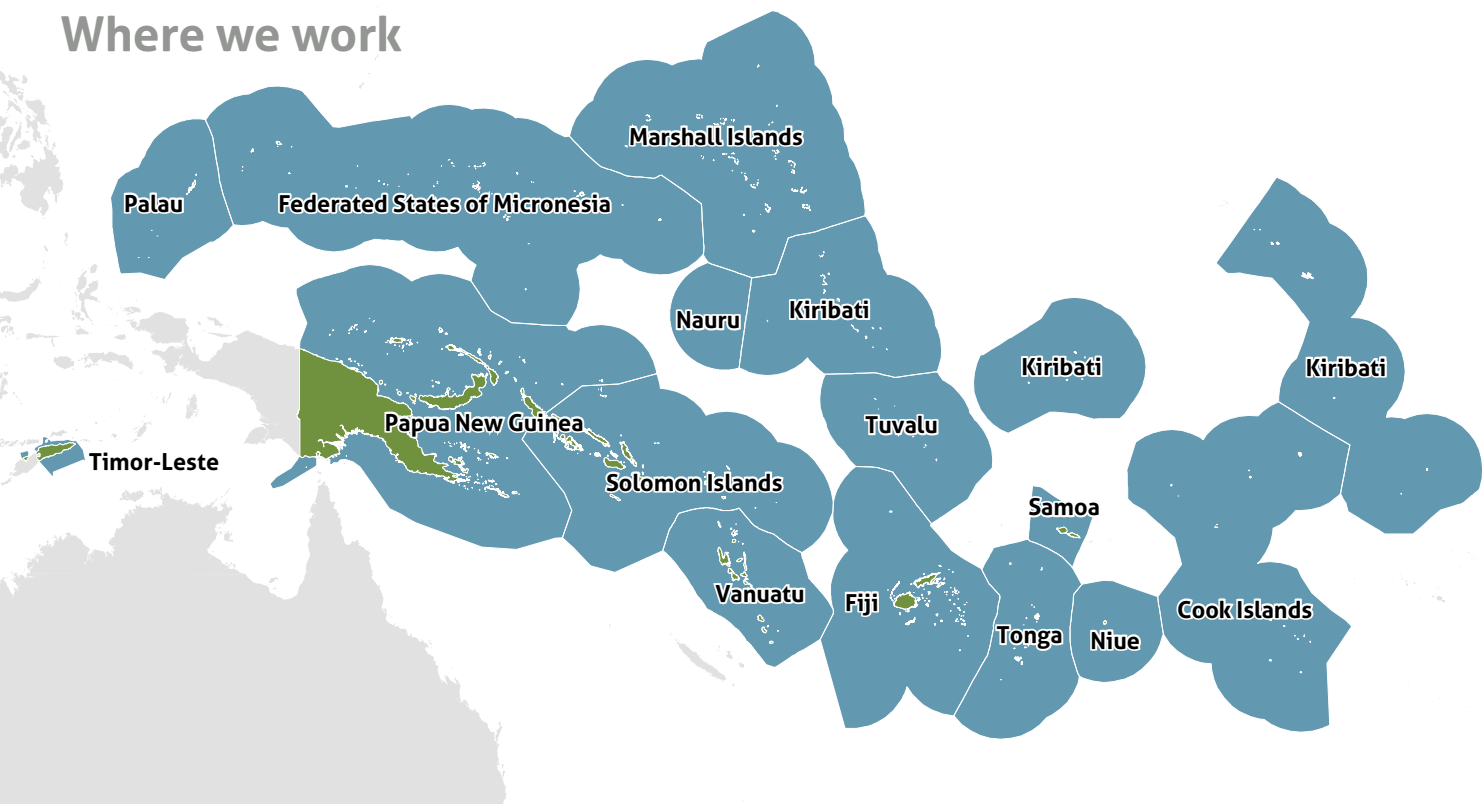




Photo: Henry 2005, Marine Photobank

About IUCN

IUCN, International Union for Conservation of Nature, helps the world find pragmatic solutions to our most pressing environment and development challenges. IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization, with more than 1,200 government and NGO members and almost 11,000 volunteer experts in some 160 countries. IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 staff in 45 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO and private sectors around the world. www.iucn.org

About the European Commission and the Joint Research Centre

The European Commission (EC) is the executive body of the European Union (EU), which is the world's largest donor of official development assistance. As the in-house science service of the EC, the Joint Research Centre (JRC) provides EU policies with independent, evidence-based scientific and technical support, including policies and programmes at global level and specifically those focusing on the African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP). <http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/jrc/index.cfm>

About the European Union

The European Union is made up of 28 Member States who have decided to gradually link together their know-how, resources and destinies. Together, during a period of enlargement of 50 years, they have built a zone of stability, democracy and sustainable development whilst maintaining cultural diversity, tolerance and individual freedoms. The European Union is committed to sharing its achievements and its values with countries and peoples beyond its borders. www.europa.eu

About the ACP Group of States

The African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) is the largest trans-national intergovernmental organisation of developing countries in the international system, with 79 member countries from Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. Today, the main goal of the Group is to drive South-South solidarity and North-South cooperation for the sustainable development of ACP countries and their successful integration into the world economy. <http://www.acp.int/>

About SPREP

The Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) is the regional coordinating organisation for the protection and sustainable development of the Pacific island environment. SPREP works closely with its 26 member countries and territories - along with partners, donors and local communities - to deliver on environmental management and sustainable development in the region in four priority areas: Biodiversity and ecosystem management; climate change; waste management and pollution control; and environmental monitoring and governance. <http://www.sprep.org>

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SPREP
Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme

Implementing partner