Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation

WCS

Wildlife Conservation Society



GLOBAL MISSION: WCS saves wildlife and wild places worldwide through science, conservation action, education, and inspiring people to value nature.

GOAL: The conservation of more than 50% of the world's biological diversity while ensuring a positive impact on millions of people globally.

MELANESIA MISSION: To conserve biological and cultural diversity and sustain livelihoods to ensure resilience of nature and people across Melanesia.

MELANESIA GOAL: From ridges to reefs and highlands to islands, WCS will ensure that ecosystems and species are managed sustainably for enduring livelihoods and conservation across Melanesia.

"Oceans at a tipping point –from global commitments to regional actions"

DISCOVER (Objectives 2 & 5)

- Published 19 articles on sustainable harvesting, threatened species, mangrove management and valuation, ecohealth and biocultural approaches
- Developed and piloted SES framework to assess status and trends of coral reef-associated communities
- Developed tools to assess and communicate land-based impacts on fish populations
- Evaluated impact of tropical cyclone Winston on reefs and reef associated fishing communities
- Conducted value chain analyses on targeted fisheries

PROTECT (Objectives 3 & 4)

- Signed 99 year lease for Kilaka Forest Conservation Area
- Identified 2 large marine managed areas for gazettal in Vatu-i-Ra Seascape
- Developed EBM, mangrove and fisheries management plans in Fiji, PNG and Solomon Islands
- Supported scoping consultations for protected area development on Kolombangara (Solomon Islands)
- Conducted applied research on targeted & vulnerable species (Admiralty cuscus, superb pitta, green turtle) to design appropriate conservations strategies





INSPIRE (Objective 1)

- Captured indigenous stories of TEK and climate adaptation housed on web portals
- Developed supplementary curriculum, posters and colouring books to revitalize traditional knowledge and climate adaptation strategies
- Distributed >1000 *bilas* protection kits to preserve kastom dress and reduce hunting pressure
- Maintained various social networking sites to promote regional biodiversity conservation successes

BUILD & LEVERAGE (Objective 6)

- Signed MoU with Solomon Islands Government. Developing MoU with Vanuatu Government
- Supported Fiji Government and Pacific regional preparations for UN Ocean Conference
- Participated in SNAPP working groups to develop applied science to inform policy and management implementation related to: coastal defences, land-based impacts on fisheries, biocultural indicators of sustainability





Opportunities for collaboration with PIRT partners

- *Office sharing in Solomon Islands and Vanuatu*
- *Linking development of marine protected areas and marine managed areas into national scale marine spatial planning proesses*
- *Mobilizing and operationalizing (e.g., through trust funds) large-scale resources for conservation of indigenous areas using locally appropriate tools*

