

Key EBM Messages:

Preservation of functional integrity of Fiji's eco-scapes through multiple stakeholder management.

- Successful EBM relies on cross sectoral planning and management
- Inland and lowland communities need to manage resources together
- EBM protects habitat for all stages of life
- Improving land and fishing practices helps protect natural resources
- Public health and livelihoods depend on environmental health

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EBM Guide To Be Launched In October

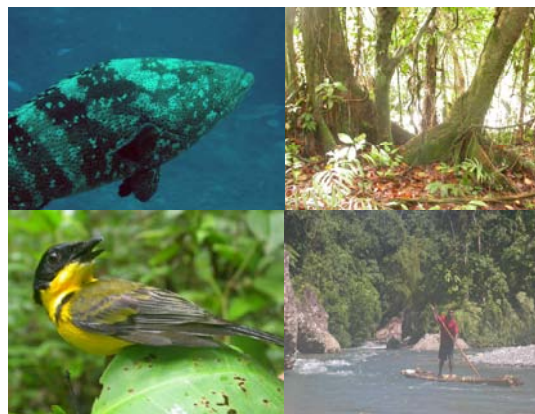
The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) together with other partners from Fiji and the Pacific will be launching the Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) guide for the EBM practitioners in the Tropical Western Pacific during the tenth meeting of the Conference of Parties (CoP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD). This meeting will be held in Nayoga, Japan, from 18-29th October 2010.

The CoP is the governing body of the convention and is responsible for advancing the implementation of the convention through its member countries. The thematic programs of CoP are: 1) agricultural biodiversity; 2) dry and sub-humid lands biodiversity; 3) forest biodiversity; 4) inland waters biodiversity; 5) island biodiversity; 6) marine and coastal biodiversity; and 7) mountain biodiversity.

Fiji became a signatory to this convention in 1992 and its implementation is administered nationally through the Department of Environment. Since becoming a signatory, Fiji has developed a National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan (NBSAP), which was endorsed by the cabinet in 2003.

This plan includes: 1) key areas in Fiji's natural environment that needs to be improved to meet the objectives of CBD; 2) major gaps in the knowledge of Fiji's biodiversity; and 3) key emerging threats to Fiji's biodiversity.

The launch of the Guide is aligned to help celebrate the International Year of Biodiversity (IYoB) and Fiji's recent conservation successes.



The EBM Guide advocates community based management of natural resources from land, freshwater, coastal and marine environments.

The guide is designed for use by conservation practitioners, particularly in developing nations where EBM approaches used in industrialized countries may not be feasible or appropriate. It shares experiences with implementing EBM from Fiji (Kubulau and Macuata), Indonesia and Palau.

Key examples covered from Fiji includes:

- community messaging from Macuata
- habitat mapping in Kubulau
- Kubulau Resource Management Committee (KRMC)
- management goals and targets in Kubulau.

Pre-launch copies of the guide are available upon request to: infofiji@wcs.org.

Fairfield Osborn Memorial Lecture

Dr. Stacy Jupiter, WCS Fiji Country Program Director, recently participated in the WCS Annual Fairfield Osborn Memorial Lecture in New York, hosted at Rockefeller University. The theme of this year's event was Wildlife Conservation and Human Health. Dr. Jupiter was on a panel of eight distinguished speakers from the Yale University Medical School, the Zoological Society of London, WCS' Global Health Program and WCS' Global Conservation Program. Dr. Jupiter presented on the links between land clearing, biodiver-

sity loss and outbreaks of flood-related disease (such as typhoid, leptospirosis and dengue fever) in Fiji. Other topics presented included: disease connections between great apes and humans in Congo; managing avian influenza in Asia; health links between wild sheep, livestock and herders in Afghanistan; wildlife management and food security in Lao; managing rabies transmission between domestic dogs, wild dogs and humans in Kenya; and controlling disease transmission from the bushmeat trade into the USA. The



breadth of projects and unique methods for addressing linkages between environmental management and human health all highlighted an urgent need for conservation organisations to partner with leading public health experts to manage the consequences of rapid global change to humans, wildlife and ecosystem services.

The Annual Turtle Ball

This year's annual turtle ball, an annual black tie event, will be held on Friday, 4th June at the Tattersall's Leisure Centre in Suva. This event was first organized in 2007 by WWF to help raise funds for the conservation of turtles in Fiji.

Fiji is known as an important feeding and migratory ground for turtles. However, little research has been done to find out what turtles do after leaving the nest as hatchlings and before returning to lay eggs on the same beach. Recent research has shown that some turtles, such as green turtles *Chelonia mydas* play an important role in the structure and dynamics of the tropical seagrass ecosystems. Removal of turtles from such ecosystem can lower the ecosystem function of those areas. Turtles can live up to 200 years and reach

sexual maturity at about 35 years of age. Although females can lay hundreds of eggs, juveniles have a low survival rate. This makes turtles vulnerable to over harvesting. Other major threats include habitat destruction and disturbance of breeding sites, and by-catch.

Fiji's turtle moratorium, which expired in 2008, has been renewed till 2018. This inclusion of the protection in the fisheries law will ensure that turtles are protected against:

- taking, harassing, or killing turtles
- selling, offering, or exporting turtle shells, flesh or derivatives
- destruction and harvesting of turtle eggs
- using turtle flesh, egg, shell

or it's derivatives for education, research or tourism

- destruction of turtles habitat (source www.fiji.gov.fj).

"Since it's inception, the annual turtle ball raised \$10,000 in 2007 and \$20,000 in 2008. The ball was not held last year due to the floods. Now it's back and we're intending to raise funds that will greatly support the work of the community based turtle monitors or Dau ni vonu," said Penina Solomona, Marine Species Programme Coordinator, with WWF South Pacific Program.

For ticketing or other enquiries please contact Penina Solomona (psolomona@wwf-pacific.org.fj).



The black tie event poster, the event is scheduled to be held on Friday 4th June 2010 at Tattersall's Leisure Centre, Suva.

National Environment Week

Department of Environment will be celebrating national environment week from June 1-5th and commemorating world environment day on June 5th.

The theme for this years national environment week is 'stop pollution: save our plants and animal'. This theme has been chosen as recently there has been an increase of pollution in Fiji which is threatening biodiversity. The Department of Environment representative Tavenisa Luisa said, "The theme presents an opportunity to raise awareness of pollution contributing to biodiversity loss and its threat to the livelihoods of the people".

"Several activities have been planned to highlight the impacts of pollution on our biodiversity", said Tavenisa Luisa. The week will also give an opportunity to stakeholders to educate the public on actions and best practices to combat pollution.

As part of these activities, there will be an environment week exhibition held at Sukuna park on June 3-4th where all stakeholder will come to present their work and provide information to the public.

Some of the organizations invited to participate at the exhibition includes: Wildlife Conservation Society; Wetlands International-Oceania, World Wide Fund for Nature; National Trust of Fiji; and Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network.

Many activities has been planned throughout Fiji in schools, local municipalities, and villages. It is hoped that during the national environment week everyone will come together to learn more about pollution and how it can be prevented.

World Oceans Day 2010

In December 2008, the United Nations General Assembly officially recognized June 8th as the World Oceans Day. The World Oceans Day has been celebrated since 1992 when the Government of Canada proposed it during the Earth Summit held in Rio de Janeiro.

World Oceans Day is celebrated in over 85 countries by aquariums, zoos, museums, conservation organizations, universities, schools, and businesses.

The theme for this year's World Oceans Day is 'oceans of life' and focuses on the oceans' great diversity of life and how we can all help in it's conservation.

It is important to manage our ocean's because:

1. humans rely on healthy oceans for livelihoods such as food fishes, edible seaweeds, etc

2. it is a source of inspiration and recreation, such as diving, snorkeling, boating, surfing
3. a healthy, diverse ocean will be better able to help regulate global climate.

During the World Ocean's Day, supporters participate in 'wear blue tell two' campaign as well. This campaign has been designed to associate the color blue with the ocean. It encourages each person to multiply their outreach by telling friends, colleagues or family members two interesting facts about the ocean.

Did you know?

1. The Blue whale is the largest animal on our planet (exceeding the size of the greatest known dinosaurs) and has a heart the size of a Volkswagen.
2. Each year, three times as much rubbish is dumped into the world's oceans as the weight of fish caught.



The 'wear blue tell two' campaign is held on June 8th to help people associate color blue with the ocean (source www.theoceanproject.org).

**THE SUBMISSION
DEADLINE OF
ARTICLES FOR NEXT
ISSUE IS JULY 11TH
2010**

**FOR MORE
INFORMATION, QUERIES
OR TO SEND ANY
FUTURE EBM ARTICLES
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CONSERVING WILDLIFE AND WILD PLACES

Science-based marine protected areas (MPAs) have been demonstrated to protect exploited marine resources, may increase coral reef ecosystem resilience, and are considered an essential tool for the long-term management and conservation of high priority seascapes around the world. Recognizing the connectivity between terrestrial and marine systems has led to a more holistic approach that also includes terrestrial processes and their potential impact on marine habitats. For example, sedimentation and nutrient enrichment have been found to be key threats to the health of nearshore marine ecosystems and therefore understanding the potential impacts of runoff



from watersheds on the adjacent marine areas is vital. Our research and advocacy as part of this EBM project is building an applied understanding of how terrestrial and marine systems are connected in terms of fauna and habitat quality, and what the implications are for conservation management in a tropical high island setting. The areas we are investigating include the aquatic fauna that

utilize "wet" ecosystem types during different life stages (living connections between the land and the sea), spatial patterns of perceptions of ecosystem change, community resource use, potential influence of terrestrial nutrients and run off on near shore environments, the effects of intensive harvesting of a traditional MPA on reef fish communities, fish community responses to management in Fiji, a low cost resource mapping approach for Pacific Islands, the connectivity of marine habitats, including understanding the movement ranges of adult reef fishes from MPAs, and priority conservation regions (Ecoscapes) for Fiji Islands to preserve ecosystem



The Wildlife Conservation Society-Fiji and our local partners are engaged in an ambitious effort to mobilize science and traditional knowledge to achieve our 10 year vision for Vatu-I-Ra: healthy, resilient forests that are connected to and sustain rivers, mangroves and coral reefs, and where coral reefs teem with whales, turtles, sharks, humphead wrasse, and abundant food fishes that are managed to support livelihoods and Fijian culture.

