Adapting IUCN guidelines for conservation planning to the Pacific context

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What is needed to achieve CBD and MD goals?

- conservation areas will play a major role

biodiversity persistence
sustainable use
ecosystem services
human livelihoods
conservation areas

- Areas of land, sea and freshwater that are managed to promote the persistence of biodiversity and other natural values.
- Including, but broader than, IUCN defined protected areas.

Pressey et al 2007 TREE
what is conservation planning?

- the **process** of locating, designing & configuring conservation areas

- separate **BIODIVERSITY AND OTHER NATURAL VALUES** from processes that threaten their **persistence**

- concerned with **implementation** and measuring **effectiveness**

- ongoing **management** of existing protected areas and new areas

Margules & Pressey 2000, Nature
why plan?

- efficient allocation of limited resources for conservation

- identifying systems (not collections) of conservation areas across a region

- place conservation actions in their proper spatial and social context, considering extractive activities, infrastructure, livelihoods

- defensible, adaptive and dynamic

- plans work and are worthwhile doing
plans work

- 2002 re-zoning of the Great Barrier Marine Park, Australia
- 33% is no-take zones from 4.5%
- Increase of global total of marine areas protected by 5 times

Fernandes et al. 2006
diversity of approaches

- Many different approaches to conservation planning have emerged
- Government agencies, NGOs, multi-lateral organisations and academic institutions...
- Different parts of the world...
- Different objectives...
- Different scales...
- Different tools
IUCN initiative on conservation planning

- Species Survival Commission and World Commission on Protected Areas best practice guidelines

(Bottrill & Pressey 2009…in review)
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<td>Scoping and costing of planning process</td>
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<td>Maintaining and monitoring conservation areas</td>
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example: stage 5
collecting socio-economic and threat data
Existing conservation planning in the Pacific

- National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plans
- Ecoregional plans
- Key Biodiversity Areas
Example: Micronesia (FSM) NBSAP

- Used expert workshops to identify 130 Areas of Biodiversity Significance
- Selected 25 priority sites
- 19% of land and near-shore area
- These sites contribute to 48% of terrestrial targets and 49% of coastal and marine targets
How can the IUCN guidelines benefit planning and decision making in the Pacific?
Coordinating conservation efforts

- Different objectives
  - Biodiversity conservation
  - Sustainable use
  - Ecosystem services and food security
  - Climate change

- Different organisations and agencies working in the region

- Encourage complementary strategies

- Strengthen networks

- **Efficient use of resources**
Training and capacity-building

- Learning about new tools
- Gap analysis
- Development or adaptation of appropriate framework for implementing national policy
- Identify minimum set of tasks and activities based on needs and capacity
Monitoring and evaluation

- Track short, mid and long term progress
- Measurable biological and social targets

1. Conceptualize
   - Define initial team
   - Define scope, vision, targets
   - Identify critical threats
   - Complete situation analysis

2. Plan Actions and Monitoring
   - Develop goals, strategies, assumptions, and objectives
   - Develop monitoring plan
   - Develop operational plan

3. Implement Actions and Monitoring
   - Develop work plan and timeline
   - Develop and refine budget
   - Implement plans

4. Analyze, Use, Adapt
   - Prepare data for analysis
   - Analyze results
   - Adapt strategic plan

5. Capture and Share Learning
   - Document learning
   - Share learning
   - Create learning environment

Conservation Measures Partnership
Open Standards

- Accountability
- Adaptive management
- Inform future efforts and resource allocation

CMP, 2007
Promoting conservation action

- Recognise opportunities and constraints to establishing and managing conservation actions
- Combining biological priorities with socio-economic context
- Identifying enabling factors and measures of success

Evaluating outcomes of past and existing conservation projects across the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot

**Project overview**

Lead by researchers Madeleine Bottrill and Prof. Hugh Possingham at the Ecology Centre, the University of Queensland, this project aims to evaluate biodiversity, social and management outcomes from a subset of past and ongoing conservation projects in terrestrial ecosystems across the Polynesia-Micronesia hotspot. This information will be used to generate some measures of success to support prioritisation of investments by NGOs and agencies. The results from this project will form part of Madeleine’s Ph.D. thesis which focuses on the role of evaluation in conservation decision-making.
thank you

- Pressey lab at JCU; Spatial Ecology lab at UQ
- Holly Dublin - IUCN SSC
- Nik Loupoukhine - IUCN WCPA
- Members of our steering and technical groups
- Funding provided by: