

# Circularity and Plastic Waste in Pacific Island Countries

A perspective from the International Union  
for Conservation of Nature – Oceania  
Regional Office



**IUCN**  
World  
Conservation  
Congress  
*Abu Dhabi 2025*

25 July 2025

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Senior Marine Project Officer



# Presentation Outline



1. IUCN's Identity – who we are
2. IUCN's work in the Pacific
3. IUCN addressing the Jaipur Declaration (2025–2035)
4. Strategic link at the World Conservation Congress 2025

# IUCN – WHO WE ARE!

**Established in 1948 – World's largest, oldest and most diverse environment organization**

**Global authority on the status of the natural world and the means to conserve it**

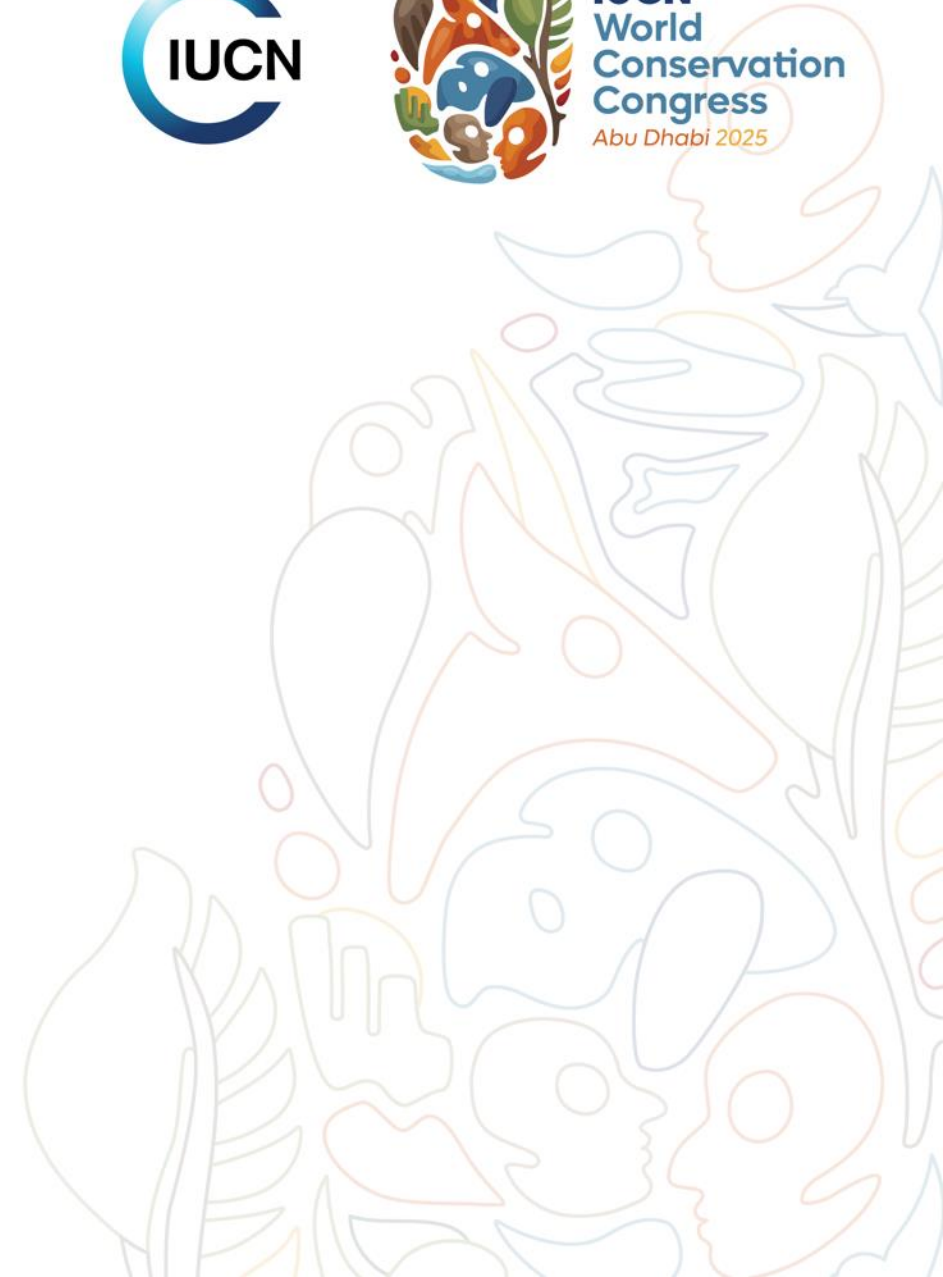
- ✓ Global standards and indices (IUCN NBS Global Standard; Green List; Red List)
- ✓ Reference reports, guides and tools

**International environment conventions agreements adviser and secretariat**

- ✓ CBD, UNFCCC, UNCCD
- ✓ Ramsar, CITES, CMS
- ✓ World Heritage
- ✓ UN Observer and consultative status

**Accredited entity (AE) for multilateral financing:**

Climate and environment investments (GEF, GCF)



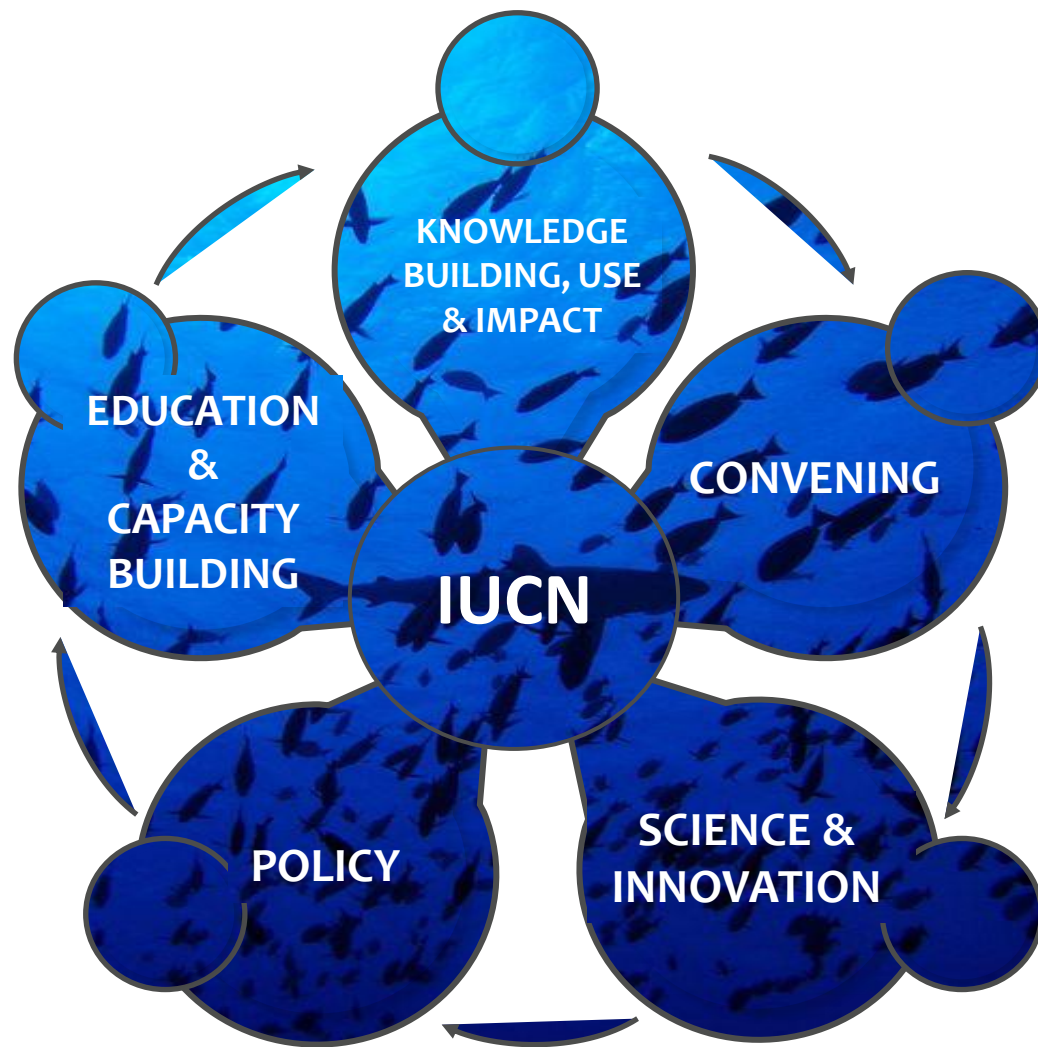


# IUCN – THE UNION

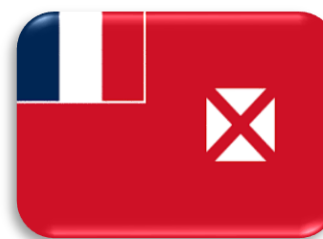
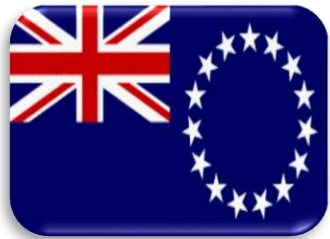
## COMPRISE 3 PARTS:

1. **SECRETARIAT** – Headquarters in Gland, Switzerland with 11 regional offices across the globe including our Oceania Regional Office (Suva, Fiji)
2. **MEMBERS**  
91 State Members + over 1300  
Government ministries/agencies  
International and national NGOs  
Indigenous people's organisations  
Subnational/local governments
3. **GLOBAL COMMISSIONS**  
18,000+ of the world's leading experts  
7 commissions





# PRESENCE IN OCEANIA





# IUCN OCEANIA PROGRAMME AREAS



PROTECTED AND  
CONSERVED AREAS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW, GOVERNANCE  
& RIGHTS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW, GOVERNANCE  
& RIGHTS

NATURE BASED  
SOLUTIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW, GOVERNANCE  
& RIGHTS

SUSTAINABLE  
AGRICULTURE

ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW, GOVERNANCE  
& RIGHTS

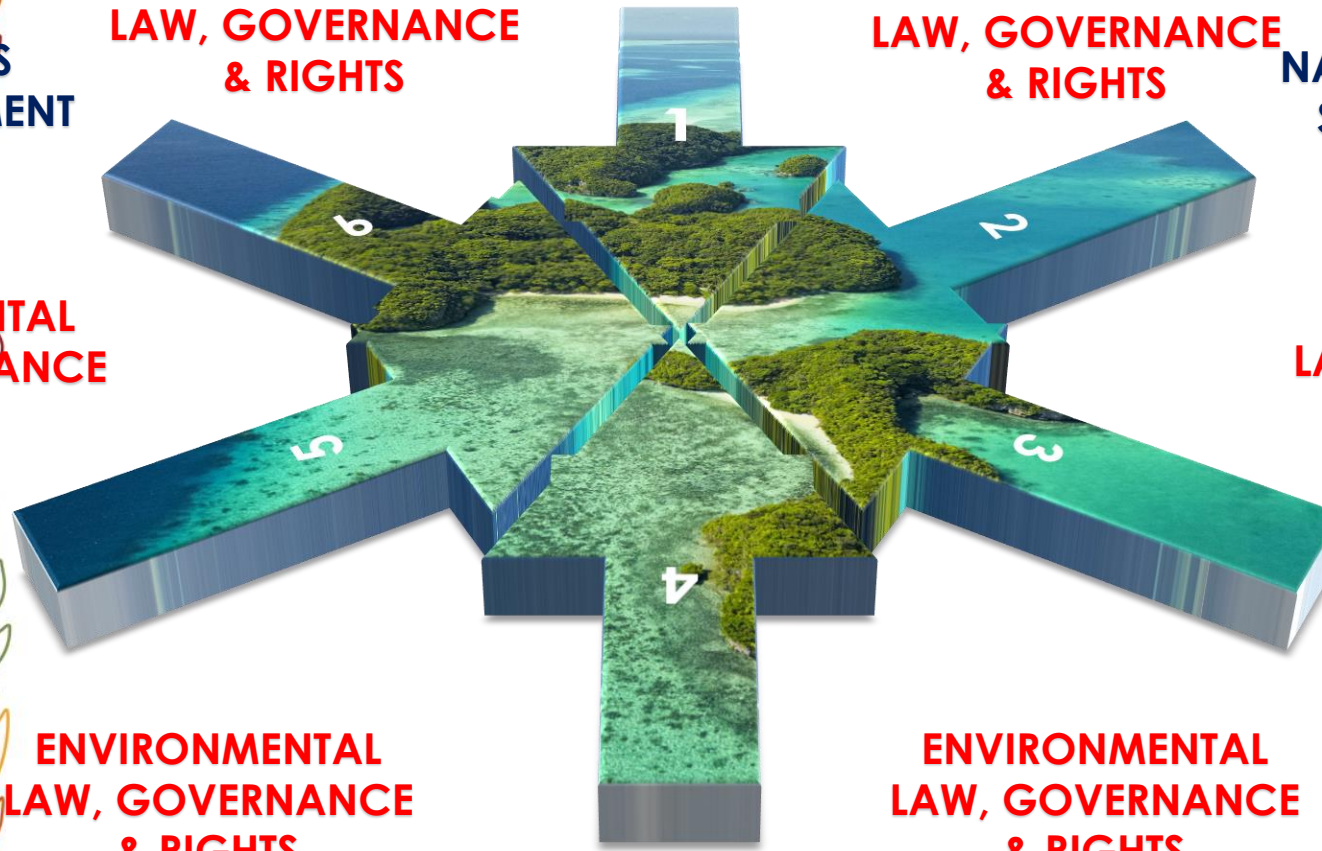
WATER SHED  
MANAGEMENT

ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW, GOVERNANCE  
& RIGHTS

ENVIRONMENTAL  
LAW, GOVERNANCE  
& RIGHTS

SPECIES  
MANAGEMENT

OCEANS  
MANAGEMENT



# How is IUCN addressing the Jaipur Declaration (2025–2035)?

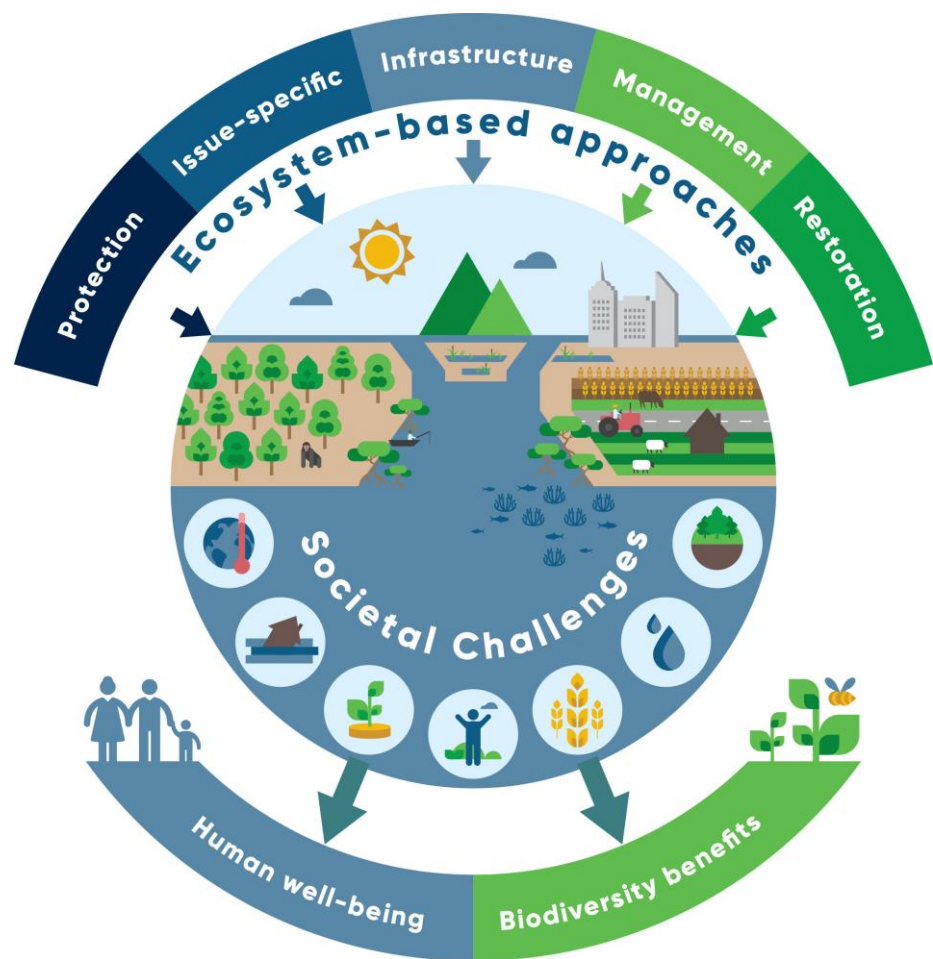


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# Nbs Global Standard



*“actions to protect, sustainably manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems, that address societal challenges (e.g. climate change, food and water security or natural disasters) effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits” (WCC 2016, Resolution 069).*

# A journey to zero plastic waste in islands: blueprint





# Regional Projects in the Pacific



- Promoting Pacific Island Nature-based Solutions (PPIN)
- KIWA Initiative – Nature-based solutions for climate resilience
- Solutions to reduce plastic pollution affecting marine biodiversity and sensitive coastal ecosystems: Asia Pacific in Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu

# Strategic link at the World Conservation Congress 2025



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## **Jaipur Declaration 2025**

**Promotes 3R (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and circular economy for sustainable development**

**Encourages regional cooperation on waste and material management**

**Aligns with SDGs and the Paris Agreement**

**Calls for policy integration of circular economy in national planning**

## **World Conservation Congress 2025**

**Focuses on transformative conservation, including sustainable production and consumption**

**Supports global collaboration on biodiversity, climate, and pollution**

**Congress motions include climate action, nature-based solutions, and carbon mitigation**

**Congress debates include mainstreaming conservation into sectors like energy, agriculture, and health**

# World Conservation Congress



**17,500+** | Commission Members

**1,400+** | Member organisations

**77** | Committees of Members

**39** | Councillors

**1,100+** | Secretariat staff

At the upcoming Congress in Abu Dhabi, IUCN will vote on **124 motions** that reflect Jaipur Declaration priorities, including:

**Emergency action on climate tipping points**

**Recognition of Indigenous sacred sites**

**Nature-positive agriculture**

**Mainstreaming conservation in renewable energy**

**One Health approaches linking nature, health, and human well-being**

These motions, once adopted, become **Resolutions and Recommendations** that guide global conservation policy and action.





# Abu Dhabi, UAE

9 – 15 October 2025





# Components of the Congress

**Forum 9–12 October**

**Exhibition 9–13 Oct**

**Members' Assembly  
13–15 Oct**

## **5 Thematic Plenaries**

*Setting the context for the specific Congress theme*

**5 days** of Exhibition  
(from 9th to 13th  
October)

**120 exhibitors** present in  
the 14'000m2 Exhibition  
halls

**4 Central Stages** with  
high-level sessions

***IUCN's highest governance  
body***



# Early Bird Registration



- **Deadline – 31<sup>st</sup> July 2025.**
- Find more information here: [Registration is now open! | IUCN World Conservation Congress](#)
- Register here: [Registration | IUCN 2025](#) and be part of the transformation.



# Closing Reflections



- The Jaipur Declaration and the IUCN Congress are not isolated efforts—they are complementary pillars of a global movement toward a more sustainable, regenerative world.
- The Declaration and IUCN' work emphasize sustainability, inclusive development, and transformative solutions.
- Circular economy is seen as a pathway to biodiversity conservation and climate resilience.



# Vinaka Vakalevu!



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