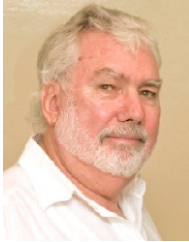


## Message from the Regional Director



**Don Stewart**

Welcome to the second edition of this quarterly e-bulletin from BirdLife International's Pacific Partnership Secretariat in Suva, Fiji. Whether you saw the first edition three months ago or whether you are with us for the first time, I hope reading this encourages you to learn more about the work our Pacific Partners and associates are doing to conserve birds and biodiversity in the Pacific region.

To lead off this edition, I would like to highlight recent developments concerning two of our Partners: the Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie (MANU), in French Polynesia, and the Te Ipukerea Society (TIS) in the Cook Islands.

MANU has become the 4th full Partner in the BirdLife Pacific Partnership after Birds Australia, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society and the Palau Conservation Society. There are now 67 full Partners in our Global Network along with 8 Partners Designate and 39 Affiliates.

MANU had been an active BirdLife Affiliate since 1999 (when the Pacific Partnership was established) and Partner-Designate since 2007. It participated in both the EC-funded regional Important Bird Area (IBA) identification project and the Pacific Important Seabird Islands Restoration Programme. BirdLife and MANU also work together in various species conservation projects funded by the BirdLife International Community Conservation Fund, US Fish and Wildlife Service, the Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund and the British Birdwatching Fair. MANU also participated in a training and exchange programme organised by BirdLife in Fiji in 2009. On behalf of the Partnership and the Secretariat, I congratulate MANU, its Board of Directors, its President and its staff on their well-deserved achievement.

TIS has appointed Jacqui Evans as its full-time Programme Manager following the organisation's gaining of a Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund (CEPF) grant to produce an inventory of priority conservation sites for biodiversity in the Cook Islands (see <http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2010/07/cook-islands-conservation.html>). Jacqui has been involved with TIS since its inception in 1996, as a volunteer in both technical and practical roles and serving as President of TIS for several years. A committed conservationist, some of the issues Jacqui has been involved in over the years are the Save Our Suwarrow and Say Yes to Cloth Bags campaigns, coordinator of the Year of the Coral Reefs and coordinator of recycling bins in schools. TIS, for its part, has worked with BirdLife in projects dealing with rat control and the Rimatara Lorikeet translocation to Atiu. The CEPF project, to be implemented jointly with BirdLife, will produce a Cook Islands IBA/KBA (Key Biodiversity Areas) directory, the 7th in a series of IBA directories produced by Pacific Partners following those now completed for Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Australia and Samoa. Once more on behalf of the Partnership and the Secretariat, I congratulate Jacqui and wish her and TIS a successful project in the Cooks.

MANU and TIS together represent the ideals of our Pacific Partnership: effective, grass-roots, local conservation organisations. We are fortunate to have them both as active regional partners and look forward to working further with them.

**Don Stewart**

### In this e-bulletin:

- 1 Message from the Regional Director**
- 2-5 BirdLife initiatives in the Pacific**
  - 2 species:**
    - Chatham Island tui
    - Big birds in Australia
  - 3,4 sites:**
    - New Zealand mining
    - IBA inventory for Pacific
    - IBAs in Samoa
  - 4 habitats:**
    - Vatthe Conservation Area, Vanuatu
  - 5 people:**
    - Livelihood training, Fiji
    - Biodiversity Day, Palau
- 6 Secretariat News**
  - Hazell Thompson visit
  - SPREP meeting
  - Maaiké Manten departs
- 7 Other News**
  - EU grant update
  - Vacancies
- 7 Meet our members**
  - Mike Britton
  - Nic Vallance
- 9 Opportunities**
  - Funding
  - Resources
  - Upcoming events



This e-bulletin is produced by BirdLife International Pacific Partnership Secretariat to inform our collaborators and supporters about BirdLife activities in the region.

BirdLife International Pacific Partnership Secretariat, GPO Box 18332, Suva, Fiji

T: +679-331-3492 F: +679-331-9658 E: [birds@birdlifepacific.org.fj](mailto:birds@birdlifepacific.org.fj) W: [www.birdlife.org](http://www.birdlife.org)

## BIRDLIFE INITIATIVES IN THE PACIFIC

### Species



#### Tui return to Chatham Island after funding from Birdlife International

The Chatham Island tui has returned to the main island of this offshore New Zealand group for the first time in a generation. With its distinctive range of calls and tuft of white feathers on the throat, the tui is a common sight on mainland New Zealand but the Chatham Islands sub-species (*Prothemadera novaeseelandiae chathamensis*), which are 30 percent larger than their mainland counterparts, disappeared off the main island due to introduced predators, including cats, rats and especially possums, which were introduced in 1911.

Fourteen tui were transferred from nearby South East Island/Rangatira to Chatham Island in March last year by local conservation organisation the Taiko Trust.

Funding was provided by BirdLife International's Community Conservation Fund, which is administered in New Zealand by partner, Forest & Bird (BirdLife in New Zealand).



*Chatham Island Tui on Tuku Farm in February 2010.*

*Photo Dave Boyle*

All 14 transferred birds survived the first winter in their new location and the newcomers began breeding in their first year, thanks in large part to the attention of Liz and Bruce Tuanui. The couple monitors and feed sugar water each day to encourage the tui to stay on their land, where there is predator control.

Liz Tuanui said the islanders, whose home is 800 kilometers east of New Zealand, have given the tui a huge welcome. "There's a whole generation of people on the Chatham Islands who grew up without having tui there. It's only the very older people who remember them. There were tears when we were letting them go." Transfer organiser Mike Bell said the change in community awareness and support for conservation was one of the most valuable lasting legacies of the transfer. Contact David Brooks, Communications officer at Forest and Bird, [d.brooks@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:d.brooks@forestandbird.org.nz).

#### Big Birds in Australia



*White-bellied sea-eagles nesting in Sydney's Olympic Park*

The White-bellied Sea-eagles have returned to their nest at Sydney Olympic Park for the third consecutive year and can again be seen live on EagleCam at the Birds Australia Discovery Centre. The Sea-Eagles have renovated their nest and recently laid two eggs. Everything looks set for a successful breeding season. This year the camera provides a wonderful view into the nest, and we hope to provide regular video clips and images of the whole breeding cycle through to November. Catch all of the action on the Birds Australia (BirdLife in Australia) website at [www.birdsaustralia.com.au/the-organisation/eaglecam.html](http://www.birdsaustralia.com.au/the-organisation/eaglecam.html)

Birds Australia is now on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#)! Keep informed and discover what's happening at Birds Australia right now with up-to-date information, conservation news, events, competitions and more on the world's favourite social networking and microblogging services. [Follow us](#) and become a [friend](#). For more details, contact Pixie Maloney at [basna@birdsaustralia.com.au](mailto:basna@birdsaustralia.com.au).

## Sites

### Redesigning mining in New Zealand

Conservationists in New Zealand are celebrating after the Government backed down on plans to mine in the country's most precious wilderness areas. Birdlife International's New Zealand partner, Forest & Bird, seized the initiative in March by publicising the details of the Government's plans ahead of their official release.



*Some of the nearly 50,000 marchers in the anti-mining rally, Auckland, New Zealand*

News of the Government's plans to allow mining in 7000 hectares of top quality conservation land protected under Schedule 4 of the Crown Minerals Act in Paparoa National Park in the northwest of the South Island, and Coromandel Peninsula and Great Barrier Island in the northeast of the North Island near Auckland, led to an outpouring of public opposition. The area targeted for mining on Great Barrier Island was home to several plants found only on the island, New Zealand's longest lizard, the rare Chevron skink, and rare birds including the country's most endangered duck, the brown teal.

Two areas that would have been opened to mining in the Coromandel Peninsula contained rare frogs, native fish and many native bird species, while the Paparoa region has forest areas with rich bird life.

Forest & Bird took a leading role in organising a campaign against the plans announced by Energy and Resources Minister Gerry Brownlee and a major turning point came when up to 50,000 people marched in opposition in Auckland at the start of May.

Thousands more took to the streets in other centres and almost 40,000 people made submissions to the Government on the proposals. Forest & Bird argued that as well as destroying the intrinsic values of the wild landscapes, mining did not stack up economically, threatening the clean green image which underpins New Zealand's tourism industry and agricultural exports.

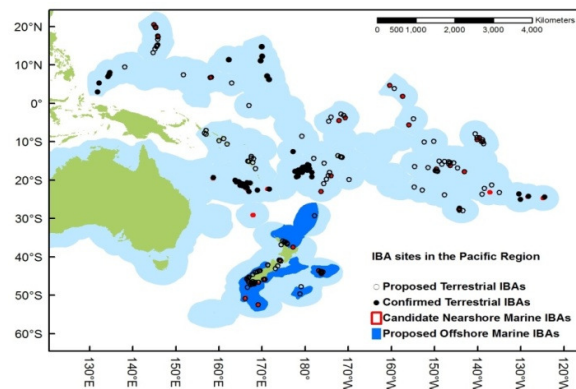
On July 20, the government bowed to the outpouring of opposition, announcing there would be no mining on land protected under Schedule 4, which makes up 13 percent of New Zealand's land area and 40 percent of all land set aside for conservation. But on the downside, Mr Brownlee bizarrely claimed the public consultation had resulted in a clear mandate for the minerals sector to mine the remaining 60 percent of conservation land. He announced plans for aerial surveys of conservation land in Northland in the North Island and the West Coast of the South Island to check for mineral prospects, as well as making it easier for miners to get access to conservation areas.

Forest and Bird is expecting more battles in the future to protect important wilderness areas from being carved up by mines. For more details, contact David Brooks, [d.brooks@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:d.brooks@forestandbird.org.nz)

### IBAS on the map for the Pacific

One of the principal objectives for BirdLife Pacific over the last few years has been to research and publish details of Important Bird Areas (IBAs) across the region. Between 2005 and 2010, IBA directories were published for Fiji, French Polynesia, New Caledonia, Palau, Australia and Samoa. More recently a desk review, to assess potential IBAs in countries and territories where BirdLife has no current partners, has been completed and the findings assessed.

All the resulting potential IBAs have been recorded onto the World Bird Database which acts as a central repository for this kind of information. However, in order to make these proposed and confirmed IBAs more widely available, the BirdLife Pacific Secretariat has produced a CD – entitled Important Bird Areas in the Pacific 2010: a compendium – copies of which have been deposited with Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme ([www.sprep.org](http://www.sprep.org)) for wider distribution.



*Pacific region IBAs with candidate marine areas*

### Pacific IBA compendium continued...

This CD records 187 Important Bird Areas in the Pacific Islands region, to add to the 314 already identified by Birds Australia. One of the developments presented on this CD is the concept of Marine IBAs, based on foraging ranges around priority seabird nesting areas.

Feedback on the usefulness of this approach would be particularly beneficial. It should be stressed that this CD should only be considered as an interim report (hence the year in the title). There are still a number of countries and territories where IBAs have not yet been identified (Cook Islands – currently in prep, American Samoa, US Minor Outlying Islands, Tokelau, Papua New Guinea) and a number of countries where IBA identification is currently little more than rudimentary (Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, New Zealand). We hope that opportunities will allow IBA programmes to be undertaken in each of these countries over the next few years. Contact Mark O'Brien for more information on this story, [mark@birdlifepacific.org.fj](mailto:mark@birdlifepacific.org.fj). Mark works as Senior Technical Advisor for the BirdLife Pacific Secretariat.

### Important Bird Areas in Samoa

Samoa has become the latest country in the region to complete a programme of work to identify Important Bird Areas. Six sites have been confirmed, five on Upolu and a sixth on Savaii which is three times the area of the five Upolu sites combined. The assessment was conducted through a partnership between O le Sio'sio'maga Society (OLSSI, BirdLife in Samoa), Conservation International, the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, BirdLife International and Cedric Schuster of Pacific Environment Consultants Ltd who compiled the final inventory, supported by the OLSSI steering committee. The IBAs support Samoa's most vulnerable species, such as Tooth-billed Pigeon, Mao, Samoan White-eye and the possibly extinct Samoan Moorhen. The sites overlap to a large extent with Conservation International's Key Biodiversity Areas (see [www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Countries/Samoa/191.pdf](http://www.sprep.org/att/IRC/eCOPIES/Countries/Samoa/191.pdf)). For the IBA programmes, the next steps are to raise community awareness about the importance of the sites, to identify benefits to the community from the sites and to monitor the sites to identify both short-term and medium-term threats. For more information contact Fiu Elisara Mataese, [ngo\\_siosiomaga@samoa.net](mailto:ngo_siosiomaga@samoa.net) or Mark O'Brien, [mark@birdlifepacific.org.fj](mailto:mark@birdlifepacific.org.fj)

## Habitats

### Invasive plants combatted in Vatthe Conservation Area, Vanuatu

Landowners in the Vatthe Conservation Area in Vanuatu have been working with staff and volunteers from Forest & Bird, (BirdLife in New Zealand) to find a way to control the invasive vine, *Merremia peltata*, and to protect one of the largest remaining lowland tropical forests in the South Pacific. The vine smothers and causes collapse of the forest. Last year, the group trialed four different herbicides by injecting them into the vines. The vines can trail up to one kilometre, so uptake of the herbicides through the plant's system is vital for the success of this approach. The trial involved tracking the outcomes for treated vines, requiring the team to crawl around hundreds of metres of forest floor to find out which parts of the vines were affected. The most effective method was to inject the main stem of the vine with the herbicide "Weedmaster" which has glyphosate as the active ingredient. This method killed the main stem and all ground runners on the vines trialed.



*Bill Tavue tests the herbicide injection technique on Merremia vines at Vatthe Conservation Area, Vanuatu*

The work has grown into an international collaboration, with Vanuatu NGO Enviro Livelihoods Association working with Forest & Bird teams which have visited regularly, and assisted by funding from the UN Development Fund and Global Environment Facility. Funds from the Quaker Peace and Service Committee Aotearoa New Zealand and the Pacific Conservation Development Trust have also assisted, along with input from tour groups organised by Forest & Bird who have contributed to the work on the ground as well as through funding parts of the trials and their implementation. Training in the successful herbicide application will be ongoing at Vatthe. Contact Sue Maturin [s.maturin@forestandbird.org.nz](mailto:s.maturin@forestandbird.org.nz).

## People

### Training & Capacity Building by Fiji Programme

The BirdLife Fiji Programme was initiated in 2002 in response to pressing threats to biodiversity and in the absence of a Fijian conservation NGO eligible for BirdLife membership. Today it has come a long way from community consultations to biological surveys and it is now paving the way for fellow local and regional conservationists who are seeking to develop Site Support Groups and to establish community-managed protected areas.

Development and implementation of feasible and sustainable livelihoods is the focus for the programme. This helps communities to protect their forests, and provides an alternative to logging. Local communities can monitor and manage their natural resources more sustainably. In partnership with prominent Government Departments and with funding from the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund, the Fiji Programme has been providing training asked for by the communities in livelihood projects.



*SSG representatives at the SSG workshops in Fiji in July 2010*

Projects include sustainable agriculture and cash-crop farming, handicrafts, bakery & pastry making, beekeeping and 'start your business' training. Communities surrounding the IBAs depend on forest resources to sustain their livelihoods; the projects are aimed at alleviating pressure on the forest resources. The Programme has provided further training to the SSGs for effective monitoring of these IBAs. In July this year, the first joint workshop for SSGs was led by staff from the Fiji Programme for groups from five sites with extremely positive results.

The workshop included a fundraising and biosecurity training, followed by a 1-day field excursion to a seabird restoration site. Community-declared protected areas are established covering 40% of two terrestrial IBAs, and two or more are planned for seabird islands. This programme is vital for engaging communities and provides a model approach for all conservation work in Fiji and across the region. Contact Miliana Ravuso, [milly@birdlifepacific.org.fj](mailto:milly@birdlifepacific.org.fj)

### PCS celebrates the International Day for Biological Diversity



*Rusty Kingfishers. Photo Mandy Etpison and PCS*

"Terrestrial biodiversity is the one thing that we interact with every day. When you reach out and touch your neighbour, you've just touched terrestrial biodiversity. Terrestrial biodiversity is part of our everyday lives," says Ms. Anu Gupta, Director of Conservation and Protected Areas for the Palau Conservation Society (BirdLife in Palau). Palau has celebrated the International Year of Biodiversity with a special event on 21 May for dignitaries and community leaders. Guests included Palau's President and Vice President, and representatives from the Council of Chiefs, National Congress, Ministries, and Governor's Association.

Palau hosts more species, subspecies, and habitats than might be expected for an island of its size, and is uniquely positioned in the Pacific – close enough to land masses to encourage colonization but yet far enough away to encourage speciation.

Palauans have close bonds with nature, have strong respect for biodiversity, and work actively conserving it and protecting it from harm.

The strong community-linked conservation activities from Palau include work at Lake Ngardok, part of Palau's largest IBA where "community members and researchers alike have noticed that the *kiuid* or Micronesian Starling is likely the only bird to spread the seed of the *orredakl*, *Dracaena multiflora*. *Orredakl* is one of the only native trees able to grow on bare and degraded areas. This tree is seminal to the regeneration of new forested areas, leading to healthier reefs, more fish, and cleaner drinking water", noted Anu Gupta in her presentation on the examples of IBA and community engagement. For the Micronesian Pigeon, highly valued in cultural practices, community involvement in the conservation of the species is vital to reverse the 40% decline of the species, and hunting needs to be reduced to improve the conservation status of this species. Palauans are already using biodiversity as indicators of environmental wellbeing, and for example, the Palau Fruit Dove (an endemic species) has been used as an indicator in development decisions. Contact [pcs@palaunet.com](mailto:pcs@palaunet.com) for more information.

## NEWS FROM THE BIRDLIFE PACIFIC SECRETARIAT

### BirdLife Assistant-Director of Network and Capacity Development Visits Region

Dr Hazell Shokellu Thompson, BirdLife International's recently-appointed Assistant Director of Network and Capacity Development, paid a short, introductory visit to the region during late June and early July. In Wellington, Hazell attended the Annual General Meeting of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (BirdLife in New Zealand) and gave a well-received presentation to members on how BirdLife works globally with an emphasis on the IBA process. He had discussions with Forest and Bird Executives and General Manager on Partner collaboration and how both organisations might work together more effectively on international issues including fundraising, network support, communications, membership recruitment and retention, governance, database management, sharing technologies and advocacy at political and local levels. In Suva, Hazell met with the Director and staff of the BirdLife Pacific Partnership Secretariat and BirdLife's Fiji Programme as well as with staff of NatureFiji/MareqetiViti, a local conservation NGO, to discuss an eventual merger with BirdLife's Fiji Programme with NatureFiji/MareqetiViti becoming BirdLife Affiliate for Fiji.

Dr Thompson was Director of BirdLife's Africa Division before his current appointment and is a former vice president of the Conservation Society of Sierra Leone. He is now based at BirdLife International's headquarters in Cambridge, UK. This was his first visit to this part of the world. Contact Don Stewart [don@birdlifepacific.org.fj](mailto:don@birdlifepacific.org.fj).



*Hazell Thompson gives a presentation to the combined staff of BirdLife Pacific Secretariat and Nature Fiji/Mareketi Viti during his visit to the BirdLife Office in Fiji during July.*

### BirdLife and SPREP

Regional Director Don Stewart was in Apia in July accompanied by Seabird Programme Manager Steve Cranwell and Senior Technical Advisor Mark O'Brien to discuss ongoing cooperation between BirdLife and Secretariat for the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). He agreed with SPREP Director David Sheppard that SPREP and BirdLife would continue working together on promoting the Important Bird Area (IBA) process in the region developing a revised Regional Bird Conservation Strategy and sharing information on dealing with invasive alien species mainly rats whose depredations are a main factor in the endangering of many bird populations in the region.

During a function hosted by the Director of SPREP for participants at the 13th Pacific Roundtable for Nature Conservation, Don Stewart presented the compendium of IBAs that BirdLife Pacific had researched covering 21 Pacific countries and territories in the Pacific.

Further information is available at <http://tinyurl.com/23vpxpk>



*David Sheppard (SPREP Director) accepts the IBA compendium CD from Don Stewart (BirdLife Regional Director) at the recent SPREP round table meeting.*

During the 13th Roundtable meeting, at which Don Stewart and Mark O'Brien represented the Secretariat, it was agreed that the Birds Working Group would be merged with the Threatened Species Group and would focus in the next 12 months on assisting with the development of the revised Regional Bird Conservation Strategy for SPREP. Further information on the meeting is available from Mark at [mark@birdlifepacific.org.fj](mailto:mark@birdlifepacific.org.fj)

### BirdLife and SPREP continued...

Steve Cranwell represented the Secretariat at the Pacific Invasives Programme's annual meeting which was held in Apia at the same time as the Roundtable. The programme's meeting agreed that BirdLife over the next 12 months would carry out a regional ecological restoration prioritization exercise for islands in the Pacific based on biodiversity value, feasibility, and capacity needs. Further information on this can be obtained from Steve at [steve@birdlifepacific.org.fj](mailto:steve@birdlifepacific.org.fj)

### Departure of Maaïke Manten

About 40 people attended a function at the BirdLife office in Suva on 23 July to farewell Regional Programme Development Manager Maaïke Manten who left us after 2 ½ years to return to Europe and then back to Africa. Maaïke came to us in early 2008 from Nairobi where she had been the fundraiser for BirdLife's Africa Division. Maaïke ably fulfilled a key role in fundraising for Pacific Partners. She developed the Pacific Regional Fundraising Strategy, now being implemented, and co-authored a highly popular fundraising handbook. Maaïke's talents did not stop with raising funds: she compiled and edited the first edition of this e-bulletin, revised our website, produced a communications plan and chaired the Secretariat's communications committee, wrote a network development plan, a policy and advocacy plan and instituted our web-based conservation volunteers system <http://tinyurl.com/2bjqkm6>. Maaïke achieved all this while producing and editing publication of articles in various national regional and global media. We wish Maaïke well in her new endeavours.



*Maaïke Manten (centre) heads back to Africa after 2 ½ years at BirdLife's Pacific Secretariat office.*

### Farewell to the SCO Director, Vivien Chartendraut



*Vivien Chartendraut*

Vivien Chartendraut is leaving the Société Calédonien d'Ornithologie in New Caledonia later this year. Looking back over his time in the post he says: "This is seven years of my life that are now coming to an end and leaving New Caledonia and the Pacific will not be so simple. I've had the chance to meet great people experience conservation in one of the most amazing hotspots of biodiversity in the world. Leaving the BirdLife Partnership will also be tough as I consider it as one of the best examples of initiatives for conservation and I'd be pleased to be part of it again soon wherever in the world!"

Vivien added that "in New Caledonia, these past seven years have been some of the most critical for bird conservation, with the increased knowledge on bird status and distribution, the identification of IBAs, new major projects including seabird colony restoration (through the Packard Foundation funding) and the Kagu recovery plan."

"But it's also been years during which SCO has worked in partnership and gained recognition among environment and conservation stakeholders leading to a better incorporation of bird matters into local policies which is a major progress ! It is now time to ensure the sustainability of our NGO. SCO has grown from one staff member in 2007 to 6 in 2010 but we must not forget that we have a small constituency of people who want to volunteer for bird conservation! New Caledonian birds need more and more attention and SCO will do its best to raise their profile among all of our people". Vivien's lively input is going to be sorely missed in the region, but his parting comment "Au revoir à tous et à très bientôt!" suggests that there is more to come. Contact Vivien at [iba@sco.asso.nc](mailto:iba@sco.asso.nc).

### OTHER NEWS

#### STOP PRESS!!!

As this e-bulletin was being finalised for circulation, advice was received from Brussels that our bid for a new EU-funded regional project, involving all five of our island Partners plus NatureFiji/MareqetiViti, has been provisionally accepted by the European Union. More details in the next e-bulletin.

**UN uses BirdLife's IBAs as key indicator**

[www.birdlife.org/news/news/2010/06/millennium-development-goals-ibas.html](http://www.birdlife.org/news/news/2010/06/millennium-development-goals-ibas.html)

An advertisement for the vacant position of Regional Programme Development Manager can be found at <http://www.birdlife.org/jobs/jobs/2010/Reg-Prog-Dev-manager-pacific.html>. Applications close on 10 August 2010.

A vacancy for the Directorship of the Société Calédonien d'Ornithologie in New Caledonia has recently been advertised. Contact [iba@SCO.asso.nc](mailto:iba@SCO.asso.nc) and [president@SCO.asso.nc](mailto:president@SCO.asso.nc) for the position description and to submit an application. Applications close 13 August 2010.

**MEET OUR MEMBERS –STAFF AT FOREST & BIRD AND GLOBAL COUNCILLOR**



*Mike Britton, BirdLife Global Councillor*

**Mike Britton, Global Councillor, General Manager, Forest & Bird.**

Mike Britton is one of two representatives of the Pacific Partnership on the BirdLife Global Council, along with Philippe Raust (French Polynesia). Mike is the General Manager of the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society (BirdLife in New Zealand). Forest & Bird is New Zealand's largest community based conservation organisation with close to 70,000 members and supporters. BirdLife partnership provides the vehicle for organisations like Forest & Bird to have a global voice on climate change, flyways, ocean protection and a myriad of other global conservation issues. Mike noted "Forest & Bird is also awakening to its responsibility as one of the larger conservation organisations in the Pacific to work with the other Partners and associated groups in the Pacific to further Pacific Conservation. In addition there are potentially huge opportunities to share experiences, skills, and resources with the other BirdLife partners worldwide. Because unlike other international conservation organisations BirdLife is driven by its partners, its operation and its policy very much reflect local priorities and ideas".

**Nicola Vallance, Conservation Advocate, Forest & Bird**

Nic Vallance is an enthusiastic support of Forest & Bird's conservation programme. She said: "I'm a recent arrival to Forest and Bird, after seven years working for the Department of Conservation in New Zealand. My background is in Zoology, I gained a first class honours at Otago University, for which I studied Adelie penguins on the Antarctic Peninsula. I've also studied natural history filmmaking and communication. As a conservation advocate, I'm involved in a range of issues, but I have particularly been focusing on the New Zealand government's recent intention to open up our national parks and other precious conservation areas to mining. I'm loving my job at Forest and Bird, it's extremely busy to be in the business of conservation right now, but I love a challenge, the people are great – and our new slogan 'Giving nature a voice' is perfect for me, since I'm known for being rowdy!



*Nic Vallance with New Zealand Kea. Photo David Baird.*

**BirdLife in the Pacific**

The BirdLife International Pacific Partnership includes seven Partner organisations working in Australia (Birds Australia), Cook Islands (Te Ipukarea Society), French Polynesia (Société d'Ornithologie de Polynésie), New Caledonia (Société Calédonienne d'Ornithologie), New Zealand (Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society Inc), Palau (Palau Conservation Society) and Samoa (O le Si'osi'omaga Society Inc). BirdLife International is also delivering a conservation Programme in Fiji pending the development of an eligible national NGO to become the BirdLife Partner in the country. The Partnership is supported by a regional Secretariat based in Fiji that provides technical, logistical, programmatic and fundraising support to the Pacific Partners. For more information and the latest news on BirdLife's work in the Pacific, see [www.birdlife.org/regional/pacific](http://www.birdlife.org/regional/pacific)





## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

**Who:** **Mohamed bin Zayed Species Conservation Fund**  
**When:** No deadline  
**What:** Species conservation (focusing on Critically Endangered species in 2010)  
**How much:** Two grant sizes: max USD 5,000 / max USD 25,000  
**Eligible countries:** All  
**More information:** [www.mbzspeciesconservation.org](http://www.mbzspeciesconservation.org)

**Who:** **National Geographic Conservation Trust**  
**When:** No deadline  
**What:** Preservation and sustainable use of the Earth's biological, cultural, and historical resources  
**How much:** Max USD 20,000  
**Eligible countries:** All  
**More information:** [www.nationalgeographic.com/conservation/grant\\_application.html](http://www.nationalgeographic.com/conservation/grant_application.html)

**Who:** **LifeWeb**  
**When:** No deadline  
**What:** Marketplace for projects and donors that aim to conserve biodiversity through implementation of the CBD Programme of Work on Protected Areas  
**How much:** Anything  
**Eligible countries:** Developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are parties to the CBD  
**More information:** [www.cbd.int/lifeweb/](http://www.cbd.int/lifeweb/)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**What?**  
**1<sup>st</sup> World Seabird Conference**  
**When?**  
 7-11 September  
**Where?**  
 Victoria, Canada  
**See:**  
[www.worldseabirdconference.com/main.cfm?cid=1813](http://www.worldseabirdconference.com/main.cfm?cid=1813)  
**Contact:**  
[susan@birdlifepacific.org.fj](mailto:susan@birdlifepacific.org.fj)

**What?**  
**World Bird Festival - a global celebration of birds**



**When?**  
 2-3 October  
**Where?**  
 All around the world  
**See:**  
[www.birdlife.org/action/awareness/world\\_bird\\_festival/index.html](http://www.birdlife.org/action/awareness/world_bird_festival/index.html)  
**Contact:**  
[Rory.McCann@birdlife.org](mailto:Rory.McCann@birdlife.org)

## NEW RESOURCES

### Regional IBA compendium on CD

The BirdLife International Pacific Partnership has completed a programme of work that describes Important Bird Areas across the region. In addition to the IBA reports published for Fiji, New Caledonia and Palau, and work done in French Polynesia and most recently in Samoa (see above in this bulletin), a desk review has been undertaken to assess potential IBAs in Countries/Territories where BirdLife has no current Partners NGOs. All the resulting potential IBAs have been recorded onto the BirdLife World Bird Database [www.birdlife.org/datazone](http://www.birdlife.org/datazone). To make these potential and actual IBAs more widely available, BirdLife also produced a CD – entitled Important Bird Areas in the Pacific 2010: a compendium. This CD records 187 Important Bird Areas in the region, to add to the 314 already identified by Birds Australia (not included in this directory). One of the developments presented on this CD is the concept of Marine IBAs, based on foraging ranges around priority seabird nesting areas. Please contact [mark@birdlifepacific.org.fj](mailto:mark@birdlifepacific.org.fj) for a copy. Feedback on the usefulness of this approach would be particularly beneficial. It should be stressed that this CD should only be considered as an interim report (hence the year in the title). There are a number of countries where IBAs have not yet been identified and a number of countries where IBA identification is currently still rudimentary.

### Websites

With the help of the world's best filmmakers, photographers, conservationists and scientists, ARKive is creating the ultimate multimedia guide to the world's endangered species at [www.arkive.org](http://www.arkive.org). For 2010, the International Year of Biodiversity, ARKive has set itself the task of tracking down imagery for 17,000 of the world's most endangered species. Please check out the website to see how you can contribute (and benefit!) from this amazing initiative.



### Volunteers

In case you need a volunteer, or are a volunteer, check out the BirdLife International Pacific Partnership **Volunteer Programme and Marketplace** that aims to link enthusiastic and able volunteers to the BirdLife Partners and their work in the Pacific region: <http://tinyurl.com/2bjqkm6> or send an email to [BirdLifePacificVolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:BirdLifePacificVolunteer@gmail.com)

## CONTRIBUTION OF ARTICLES

We welcome contributions to this e-bulletin from the BirdLife Pacific Partners about activities and events in the fields of species, site and habitat conservation. We are also very interested in your work with people. Please send your contributions to [birds@birdlifepacific.org](mailto:birds@birdlifepacific.org).