**10th anniversary conservation recognition awards**

Organisational recognition

1. Recognised our two members in Fiji that have been instrumental in the setting up of the IUCN Oceania Regional Office. The Fiji Government joined IUCN in 2008. In fact it was the Prime Minister as Minister of Foreign Affairs then who endorsed the membership. We would like to invite the Minister of Environment as Fiji’s focal point to receive this award on behalf of Fiji as a state member.
2. The second recognition is awarded to the National Trust of Fiji, a statutory organisation established by the National Trust Act in 1970 to provide for the protection and management of Fiji's natural, cultural and national heritage. We would like to invite the Director of the National Trust of Fiji, Ms Elizabeth Erasito to receive this award of the organisation.

Individual recognition

1. **Robin Yarrow**

He studied veterinarian science and became a career civil servant. He served serving in two Foreign Service postings.

He served as Permanent Secretary, the most senior civil service position in Fiji, in four Ministries over a 30 year career, including in the Ministries of Agriculture, Tourism, Foreign Affairs and National Planning, before retiring from the civil service in 1999 and working as a consultant.

He facilitated the final stages, including a national consultation on Fiji’s draft Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan, in 1999.

In addition, Robin Yarrow has served on many Boards and Committees and is currently a Board member of both the Fiji Reserve Bank and the National Trust of Fiji. He is especially concerned about biodiversity protection and conservation in small island states and has a keen interest in freshwater ecosystems. In addition, he is interested in regional development in the Pacific island region as well as in sustainable livelihoods. Robin Yarrow was awarded the Fiji Civil Service Medal in 1995 and was also presented with the Knight of the Order of Agricultural Merit by the French Government in 2004.

1. **Professor Randolph (Randy) Thaman**

He was once heard saying “name it or lose it,” referring to the need to protect, record and enrich “ethnobiodiversity”. “Without this knowledge, we will not be able to conserve biodiversity in the long-run”. A colourful character, this academic has spent over 43 years shaping young minds to value their islands natural bounties. Driven by his passion to teach and influence for nature, Prof Thaman’s greatest satisfaction comes from seeing committed graduates working with local communities, governments, educational and regional institutions to promote environmentally sustainable development for their people and islands.

In his years of work, Prof Thaman has published widely in the fields of island and marine biodiversity, botany, ethnobiology, agrobiodiversity, agroforestry, food and productive security, invasive organisms and field research methodology. He is a founding member of the Pacific Islands Roundtable for Nature Conservation and founder and first Chair of the South Pacific Action Committee on Human Ecology and Environment (SPACHEE) which pioneered early conservation efforts before the first arrival in the 1990s of WWF, Wildlife Conservation Society, FSPI, Conservation International, BirdLife International, IUCN and other environmental action groups. In 1997 he was invested as a Member of the Order of Fiji for his service to Fiji.

1. **Phillipe Gerbeaux**

A scientist and an expert in freshwater and wetland ecology and management He was the chief technical advisor in IUCN from April 2006 – March 2009. He was tasked to help set up the new Oceania Office for IUCN and the development of the first regional programme for the region. Also contributed to the building of partnerships and fund raising for a number of programmes (sustainable energy, water, threatened species, valuation of ecosystem services, and conservation of mangroves).