Solomon Islands

POSTCARDS FROM THE FIELD

GALA 2020

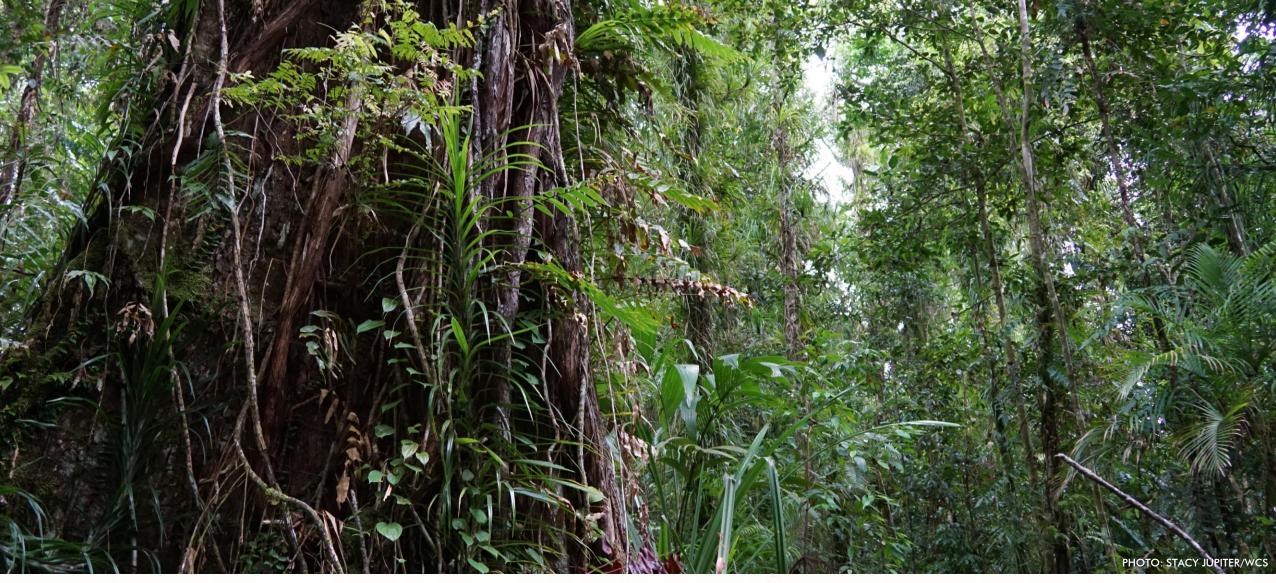WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
WCS
125 YEARS

PHOTO: STACY JUPITER/WCS

Solomon Islands is an archipelago of nearly 1000 islands located within the Coral Triangle, the center of the world's marine biodiversity.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY
WCS
125 YEARS

Solomon Islands has incredibly high rates of unique species found nowhere else in the world, including this ground frog, *Ceratobatrachus guentheri*, as species have evolved isolated on small islands.
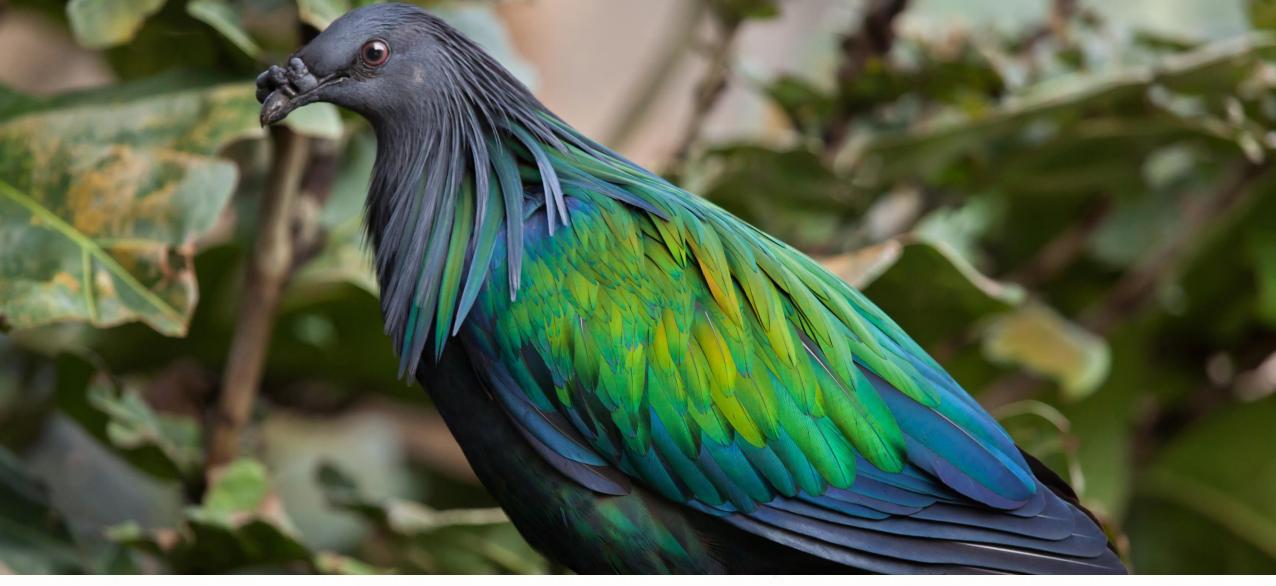
The forests of Solomon Islands support the highest level of bird diversity per area on the planet but are quickly disappearing due to high rates of logging.

Eclectus parrot (*Eclectus roratus*).

Nicobar pigeon (*Caloenas nicobarica*).

Factors that contribute to high rates of forest loss in Solomon Islands include poor regulation, inadequate resources for monitoring, and high levels of corruption.

PHOTO: JOE MCCARTER/WCS

WCS-led research suggests that logging upstream forests will lead to river water that is unsafe to drink, which also has downstream impacts on coral reef communities.

WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SOCIETY

WCS

125 YEARS

PHOTO: STACY JUPITER/WCS

WCS surveys of Solomon Island coral reefs show coral cover well above global averages at most sites, but even remote reefs are affected by fishing by a population highly dependent on fisheries resources for food and income.

PHOTO: STACY JUPITER/WCS

Solomon Islands, at the eastern edge of the Coral Triangle, has almost 500 species of coral and over 1000 species of coral reef fish, including this blenny (*Ecsenius yaeyamaensis*) resting on a brain coral.

PHOTO: STACY JUPITER/WCS

Rates of sea level rise in Solomon Islands are among the highest in the world, and there are already documented cases of disappearing islands. WCS works with coastal communities to plan for future impacts of climate change.

PHOTO: ALEC HUGHES/WCS

WCS is supporting local rangers to monitor nesting success of vulnerable populations of leatherback sea turtles in Solomon Islands.

PHOTO: STACY JUPITER/WCS

In Solomon Islands, as across all our Melanesia programs, WCS works to ensure that ecosystems and species are managed sustainably for enduring livelihoods and conservation, from ridges to reefs and highlands to islands.