

KENNETH KASSEM

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION, SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

TECHNICAL

EXPERTISE

Tropical marine
conservation
Sustainable fisheries
Marine protected areas
Nature-based Solutions
Ecosystem-based
management
Large-scale conservation
planning
Southeast Asia
Pacific / Oceania

SKILLS

Microsoft Office (Word,
Excel, PowerPoint,
Outlook, Teams)
Project management
Public speaking
Technical writing
Team development and
management
Budget development and
monitoring

CONTACT

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Suva, Fiji
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PROFILE

Strategic and collaborative conservationist with extensive experience in Southeast Asia, the Pacific, East Africa and the Caribbean. Excellent track record of large-scale grant and programme development and management with proven ability to raise funds and deliver projects on-time and on-budget in multi-cultural contexts. Team player with proven track-record of leadership.

EXPERIENCE

PROJECT MANAGER • SEPTEMBER 2023 – PRESENT

BY-CATCH AND INTEGRATED ECOSYSTEM MANAGEMENT INITIATIVE • SUVA, FIJ
SECRETARIAT OF THE PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

Responsible for delivering outputs and outcomes under SPREP's component of the Pacific-European Marine Partnership (PEUMP) programme. The Euro 7,000,000 project started in 2018 and concludes in 2025. With 8 Key Results Areas, the BIEM works with governments and stakeholders from Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Fiji and Tonga. Outputs include ecosystem-based adaptation management plans in Vanuatu and Fiji, marine spatial planning in Fiji and Solomon Islands, endangered species action plans and studies, and bycatch mitigation projects.

REGIONAL PROGRAMME COORDINATOR • JANUARY 2022 – SEPTEMBER 2023

IUCN Oceania Regional Office • Suva, Fiji

Responsible for overall programme development, planning and delivery of IUCN global and regional priorities across 15 Pacific Island Countries, including marine, climate change, protected and conserved areas, Nature-based Solutions, and species programmes with a team of 27 staff with a >\$20 million portfolio. Established systems of monitoring and reporting, budget tracking, and capacity building for IUCN and member teams. Led restructuring of programme units and office management while building capacity of IUCN team, partners, members and grantees.

STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS OFFICER • APRIL 2019 – MAY 2022

IUCN Oceania Regional Office • Suva, Fiji

Secured more than \$10 million in project funding and developed a \$90 million pipeline including GEF, GCF, and bilateral donor sources. Developed relationships with major donors and IUCN members to create national and regional projects in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Palau, Micronesia, and Tonga. Developed projects for environmental law, marine, and protected area programmes.

MARINE DIRECTOR • OCTOBER 2016 – NOVEMBER 2018

Wildlife Conservation Society – Indonesia • Bogor, Indonesia

Led technical assistance on fisheries, both at the policy and the fishery level, with a particular focus on supply chains, policy interventions, private sector engagement and catch monitoring and documentation systems. Establishment of large marine

ACHIEVEMENTS

Resource Mobilisation

Successfully raised more than \$100 million from multilateral, bilateral and philanthropic donors for marine and island conservation and sustainable development.

Team Management

Developed and led multi-cultural teams in Malaysia, Indonesia and the Pacific with emphasis on capacity building and upward mobility.

Programme Development

Developed strategic plans for marine conservation, protected areas, and species conservation that led to major achievements in conservation outcomes.

Communications

Author of "The Coral Triangle: Saving the Amazing Underwater World of Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Solomon Islands and Timor Leste." 2014.
<https://www.amazon.com/Coral-Triangle-Ken-Kassem/dp/1909612227/>

Successfully managed the Guinness World Record attempt for World's Longest Underwater Cleanup for 168 continuous hours with 139 volunteer divers in Kota

conservation and fisheries programmes in the Coral Triangle funded by various bilateral donors and foundations. Assisted with integration of scientific and research activities into the marine programme, including development of a new programme focused on shark and ray conservation and fisheries management in Indonesia, including the implementation of CITES COP decisions. Successfully secured more than \$8.5 million in project support from several donors.

HEAD OF MARINE / SSME MANAGER / MARINE COORDINATOR • NOVEMBER 2004 – APRIL 2012

WWF-Malaysia • Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia

Held several positions of increasing responsibility after building a marine conservation programme from 4 to more than 30 staff and portfolio budgets of \$4 million. This included establishing a fisheries conservation programme centred on ecosystem-based management of fisheries and sustainable consumption. Led teams that delivered more than 900,000 ha of MPAs in Sabah, Malaysia.

MARINE CONSERVATION SPECIALIST • FEBRUARY 2000 – MARCH 2003

WWF-US • Washington DC, USA

Wide range of duties and roles as member of small marine conservation science team. Primary functions grew from research and GIS analyst to advising ecoregion programmes on conservation planning, facilitating workshops at meetings in a variety of countries, and developing a marine conservation science agenda for WWF-US.

GIS ANALYST • APRIL 1998 – FEBRUARY 2000

World Resources Institute • Washington DC, USA

Lead GIS analyst for the marine and freshwater Preliminary Assessment of Global Ecosystems reports, the prototype for the Millennium Assessment. Lead GIS analyst for the initial stages of the ICRAN-funded Reefs at Risk in Southeast Asia project and publication. Designed and maintained GIS lab computer network, oversaw GIS lab growth from 2 to 5 analysts plus a separate lab for another programme.

EDUCATION

PhD • FISHERIES MANAGEMENT • ABD

Kyoto University, Kyoto, Japan

MSc • GEOGRAPHY • 1997

University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama, USA

BSc • ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE • 1992

Eckerd College, St Petersburg, Florida, USA

CERTIFICATIONS

Prince 2 Project Management

GEF Project Management

PADI Open Water Scuba Instructor

PADI Medic First Aid Instructor

PADI Coral Reef Conservation Specialty Instructor

Kinabalu, Malaysia.
<https://www.guinnessworldrecords.com/world-records/longest-underwater-clean-up>

REFERENCES

Upon request