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Gland, 9 June 2023

**Subject: Open letter on IUCN Oceania Regional Office leadership**

Dear IUCN Partners,

*Bula vinaka* and greetings. I wish to inform you of leadership changes within the IUCN Oceania Regional Office. Mr Mason Smith, the former Regional Director, has left IUCN to pursue outside professional opportunities. We are grateful to him for his six years of service since he assumed the role of Regional Director in 2017.

During this transition period, I am pleased to share that Mrs Maria-Goreti Muavesi has been appointed as “*Oceania Regional Director, ad interim*”, and will fulfil the responsibilities of this role until a permanent Regional Director has been recruited. Many of you will know Maria, who previously served as the Head Environmental Legal Officer for the IUCN Oceania Regional Office.

**IUCN derives its strength from being a Union, and I therefore seek your assistance during this recruitment period for the next Oceania Regional Director.**

This is an exciting opportunity in Oceania for a senior leader to lead the implementation of IUCN's Vision: A just world that values and conserves nature. Full details of the position can be [found via this link](#). Please spread this far and wide within your network, before the vacancy closes on 30 June 2023.

I wish to end by thanking Mason for his many years of commitment to IUCN, and by also welcoming Maria in this interim period.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grethel Aguilar'.

Dr Grethel Aguilar  
Deputy Director General