

Expected Impacts

Developing and strengthening institutional and individual capacities for conserving biological diversity in marine and coastal ecosystems in the five target countries is at the heart of this project.

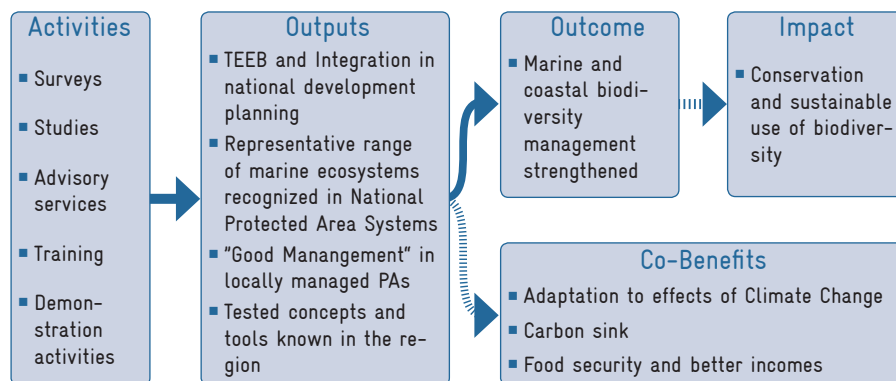
Recognizing and maintaining ecosystem services will strengthen the reproductive capacity of economically and ecologically important species and allow for their dispersal beyond the boundaries of protected areas. This is particularly relevant to the conservation of a number of endangered and endemic species in the target countries of the western South Pacific.

The conservation and sustainable management of marine and coastal resources will stabilise and improve food security, enhancing long-term income opportunities of coastal communities. The creation of representative protected area systems will benefit not only the commonly protected shallow reef and mangrove areas, but will also generate advantages for commercial and subsistence fisheries in the vicinity of protected areas.

Improved management of marine and coastal biodiversity on volcanic islands (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) and atolls (Kiribati, Tonga) will help countries to meet their 2020 biodiversity targets as set out in the 2011-2012 strategic plan of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.



Result Chain



Marine Biodiversity Conservation in the South Pacific



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Background

With an area of 180 million square kilometres, the Pacific represents around 50 percent of the global sea surface and a third of the Earth's surface. The 22 Pacific island states and territories comprise more than 200 mountainous volcanic islands and some 2,500 flat islands and atolls. The Exclusive Economic Zones (EEZ) of the five project countries cover 7,560,000 square kilometres in total – an area 21 times the size of Germany.

Natural resources in marine and coastal areas are of high economic importance for Pacific island countries, sustaining the livelihoods of hundreds of coastal communities. However, the need to conserve and use marine resources sustainably is not sufficiently reflected in national planning processes, due in part to a lack of information regarding their economic value. Existing marine protected areas (MPAs) have often been developed opportunistically, lack a strategic design and spatial planning process, and are not managed in a way to secure associated biodiversity and ecosystem services in the medium- and long-term. Improved management of marine and coastal biodiversity on volcanic islands (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) and atolls (Kiribati, Tonga) will help countries to meet their 2020 targets in the framework of the strategic plan for the implementation of the UN Convention on Biological Diversity.

Goal / Objective

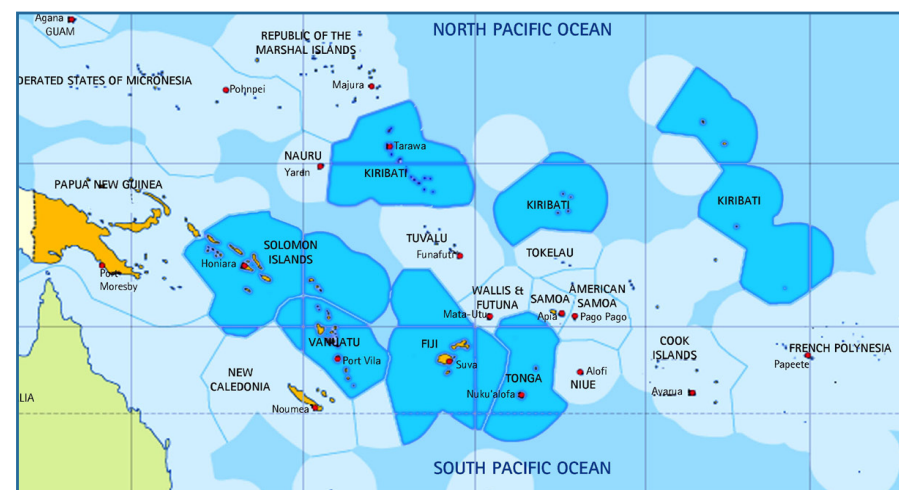
The overarching project goal is to strengthen the sustainable management of marine and coastal biodiversity of mountainous volcanic islands (Fiji, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu) and of flat islands and atolls (Kiribati, Tonga).

Approach

In partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), the project is aiming to undertake economic assessments of marine and coastal ecosystems, integrating the results into national development plans.

Through the development and provision of a spatial planning framework for territorial waters and EEZs, the project will support partner countries in setting up and expanding national protected area systems that are ecologically representative of existing marine and coastal ecosystems and habitat types.

The project aims to mainstream and extend re-designed MPA networks using seascape-level planning and will demonstrate effective approaches to site management, including payment for ecosystem services. The project aims to adopt tried and tested concepts and instruments throughout the project countries and the wider Oceania region.



Project Profile

Title:	Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries and Atolls
Funding Agency:	German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU)
Countries:	Regional Pacific (Fiji, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Vanuatu)
Implementing Agency:	German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)
Regional Partner:	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP)
Implementing Partner:	International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
Duration:	June 2013 until Mai 2018
Amount of funding:	8,1 Mio. Euro