

Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries and Atolls (MACBIO)

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)
Country/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:	8.62 Mio. EUR

Background

With an area of 180 million km², the Pacific represents around 50% 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 km² 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.

Project objective and indicators

The objective of this Project is to strengthen the sustainable management of marine and coastal biodiversity by economic ecosystem assessments, marine spatial planning and consultations in regard to protected areas in the Republic of Fiji, the Republic of Kiribati, the Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga and the Republic of Vanuatu.

This overall objective is defined by the following benchmarks:

- National decision-makers utilise knowledge of the economic value of marine ecosystem services (Baseline 0; Source: Evaluation of government and party programmes, reports of relevant forums, e.g. UNGA, in 2017)
- On the basis of the EEZ-wide spatial planning framework, the partner countries have by 12/2017 defined measures for establishing an ecologically representative marine and coastal protected area system (Baseline: PoWPA action plans 2014; Source: Country CBD progress reports 2017)
- By 2017 selected biodiversity indicators in pilot areas are stable or have improved (Baseline: To be defined; Source: Biodiversity monitoring at start and end of project)

In order to achieve this aim, the following measures are planned:

1. The economic value of marine and coastal ecosystem services (TEEB) is considered in national development planning.

1.1 Adaptation of technical approaches to economic assessments of marine and coastal ecosystem services to Pacific island conditions (IUCN)

1.2 Implementation of TEEB studies (5 national / 1 regional) on marine and coastal ecosystems (Ocean TEEB) (IUCN)

1.3 Assessment of existing national development strategies and related planning documents with regard to the conservation and sustainable use of marine biodiversity (GIZ)

1.4 Raising the awareness of various national stakeholders on the economic importance of marine and coastal ecosystems by using the results of the TEEB studies (GIZ)

1.5 Supporting governments in the integration of the TEEB results into existing planning documents and strategies (including the on-going NBSAP review process) (GIZ, SPREP)

2. An EEZ-wide spatial planning framework that takes the results of the regional EBSA process into account provides a basis for aligning national marine and coastal protected area systems with the requirements of ecosystem conservation and for expanding such systems.

2.1 Gathering and consolidating spatial data on marine and coastal biodiversity, including the datasets that serve as a basis for the regional EBSA process (IUCN)

2.2 Considering existing EBSA areas in national planning, complementing identification of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and analysing protected area gaps at the national level (IUCN)

2.3 Developing and providing open-source web-based spatial planning instruments for marine and coastal zones for the five countries (IUCN)

2.4 Advising and supporting environmental authorities in the determination of criteria and the process of having locally managed marine areas recognised as marine protected areas (GIZ + IUCN)

2.5 Providing recommendations on the inclusion of ecologically representative marine and coastal ecosystems and habitats in the national marine protected area systems of the five countries (IUCN)

3. Best practices for the management of marine protected areas, including payments for environmental services, and the resulting benefits, are demonstrated in pilot areas.

3.1. Identify pilot areas (from locally managed marine areas to large MPAs) in the partner countries (SPREP + IUCN + GIZ)

3.2. Update baseline data for the pilot areas including resource rights and ownership, biodiversity and ecosystem health, and other resource management issues (IUCN)

3.3. Identify and advance existing management plans with the involvement of local stakeholders (including agreements on the use of marine resources at local level) (IUCN)

3.4. Implement special management measures with the involvement of relevant stakeholders, including examination of the possibility for up-scaling and replication (GIZ + IUCN + SPREP)

3.5. Develop instruments for payments for ecosystem services in conjunction with marine conservation and utilisation agreements (GIZ)

4. Tried and tested concepts and instruments for the sustainable management of marine and coastal biodiversity are disseminated regionally and internationally.

4.1. Development of a communication strategy (GIZ)

4.2. Production of communication materials for different target groups using various media (GIZ)

4.3. National and regional dissemination of the project results and best practices using existing forums and communication channels (GIZ + SPREP)

4.4. Dissemination of the lessons learned and project results in specialist international forums (e.g. CBD COP side event) (GIZ + SPREP)

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On behalf of



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