Marine and coastal ecosystems provide benefits for all people in Tonga. Yet, these ecosystem services often remain invisible. Truly recognizing the value of such resources can help to highlight their importance and prevent their unnecessary loss. The results presented here summarise a report on the economic values of Tonga’s marine ecosystem services. The results are based on data from national agencies, if not otherwise indicated in the report. Because methods vary, values may not be directly comparable across different ecosystem service valuations. This summary is a 2013 snapshot using the best data available. The analysis and results can be improved as more comprehensive data on marine values are collected. Once values are more visible, governments and stakeholders can plan and manage resources more sustainably, and maintain economic and social benefits of marine and coastal biodiversity in the long term.

Full report: www.macbio.pacific.info/resources

Tourism and Recreation brings in

$8.8m

Tonga provides a Carbon Sequestration value of $1.4m to the world

Artisanal Commercial Fishing is valued at $7.3m

Coastal protection values $19.5m

Small Scale Fisheries brings in $0.9m

The net value of Tonga’s tuna is $3.5m

CORAL REEFS are being lost at 2% per yr. By 2050 we may lose $519m in ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Subsistence Fishery is valued at $5.5m

Coastal fish populations are estimated to have declined by 50% in the last 10 years

Tonga’s Marine Ecosystem Services in 2013 were worth T$47.4m which is more than the country’s exports

All figures represent yearly values in 2013 T$.


This sheet was prepared by the Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Counties (MACBIO) project, which is assisting Tonga in valuing, planning and managing their marine ecosystems. SPREP, IUCN and GIZ are the inherent copyright owners of this publication. The views expressed here do not necessarily reflect those of the organizations or the donor.