Meeting Fiji's 2020 Commitment

Fiji 2005 Commitment

"…by 2020, at least 30% of Fiji's inshore & offshore marine areas (qoliqoli) will have come under a comprehensive, ecologically, representative networks of MPAs, which are effectively managed and financed"

- Hon. Minister for Foreign Affairs Kaliopate Tavola

Set the stage for:

- Micronesia Challenge which was announced in 2007 at Curitiba at the 7th Conference of the Parties (COP) of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)
- Other regional "challenges" (e.g., Caribbean, Western Indian Ocean)

Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network

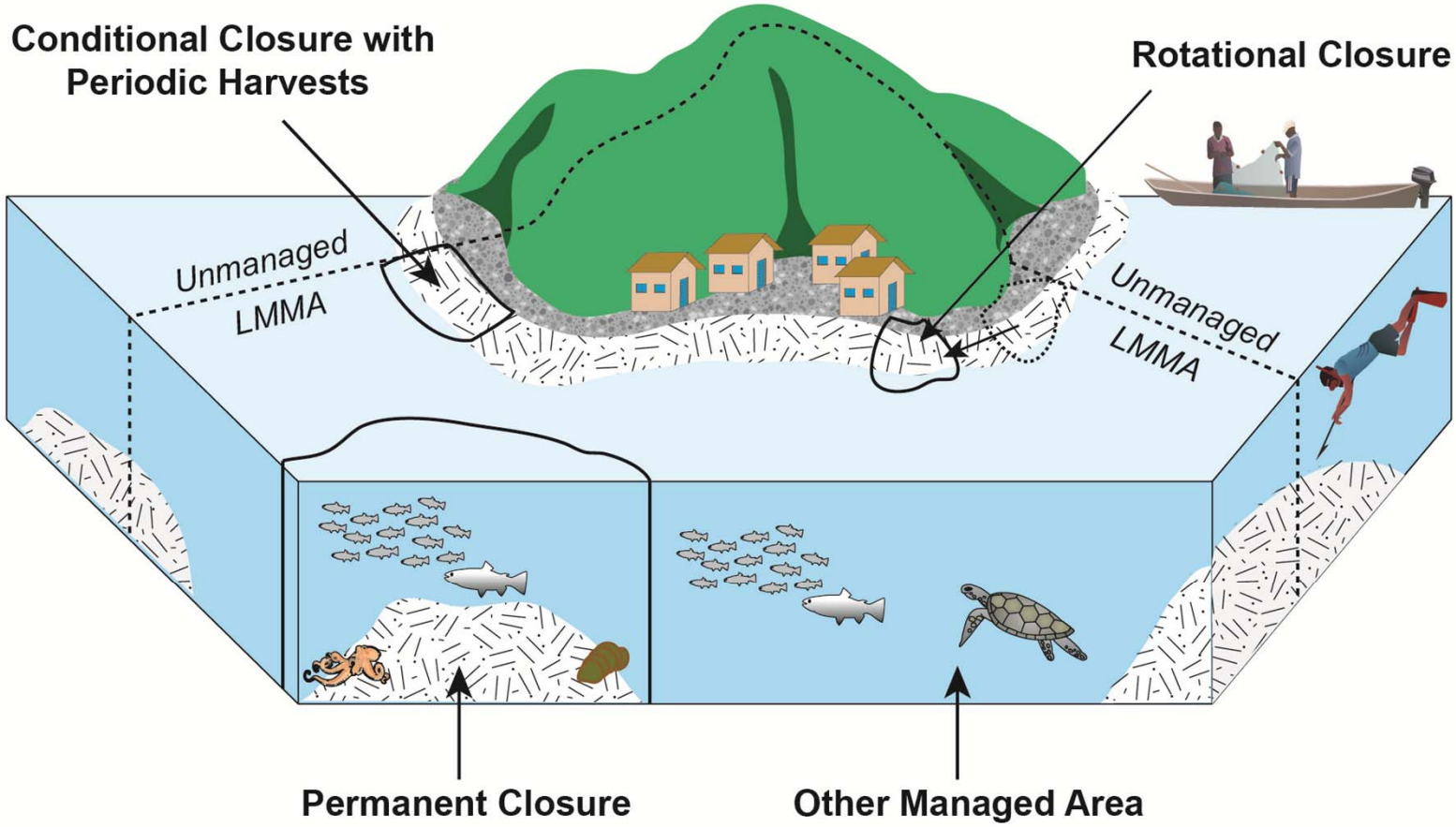
Vision: Na kedra sasalu tawamudu na noda kawa
To have everlasting marine resources for our descendants

Association of government and NGOs partners formed in 2001 to assist local communities to better manage marine resources *and achieve their local objectives*

As of Fiji Government declaration in 2005, management at **109** FLMMA sites in **39** of 187 districts in Fiji, covering approx. 15% of areas within *qoliqoli* boundaries.

Fiji

What is an LMMA?



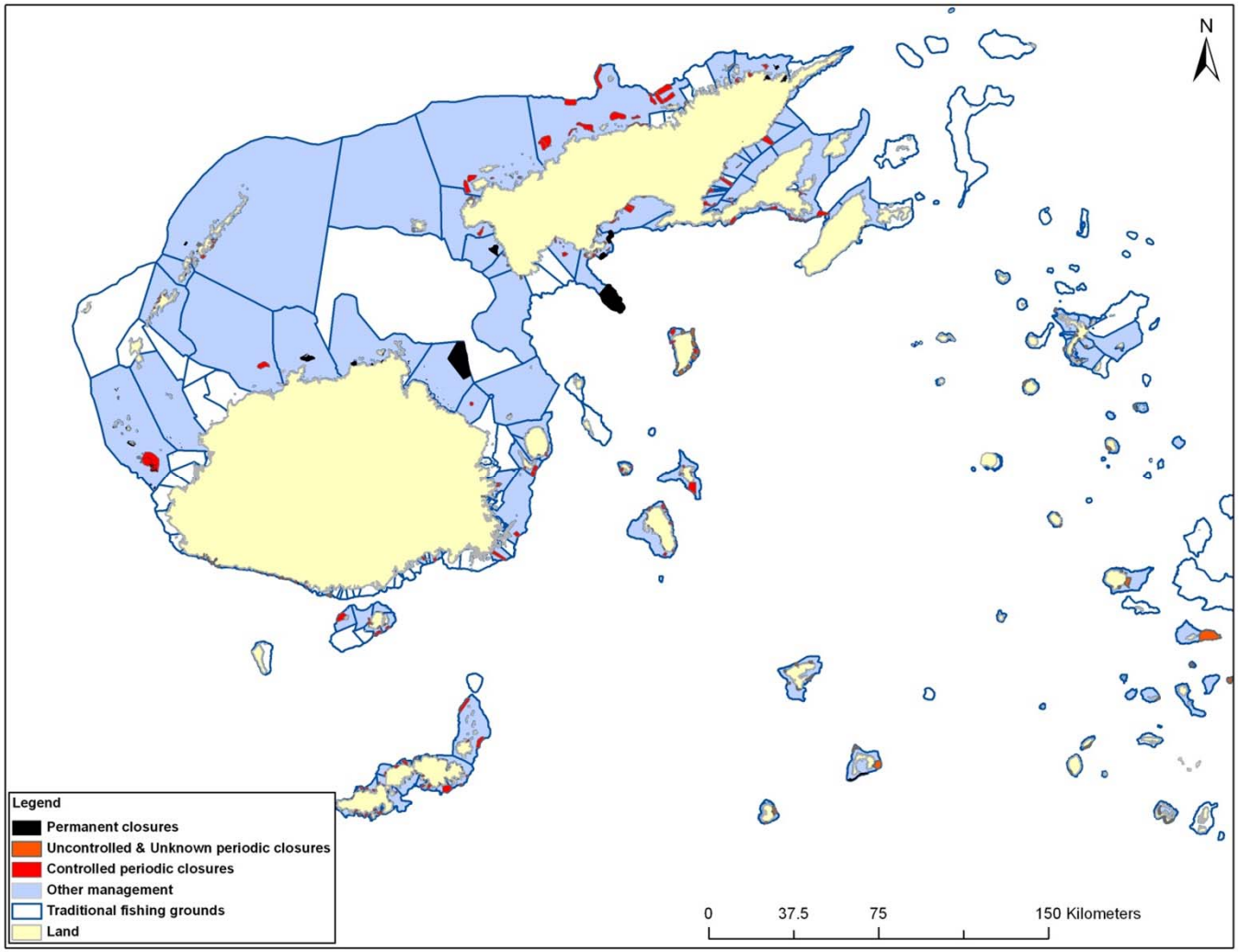
Source: Jupiter et al. 2014

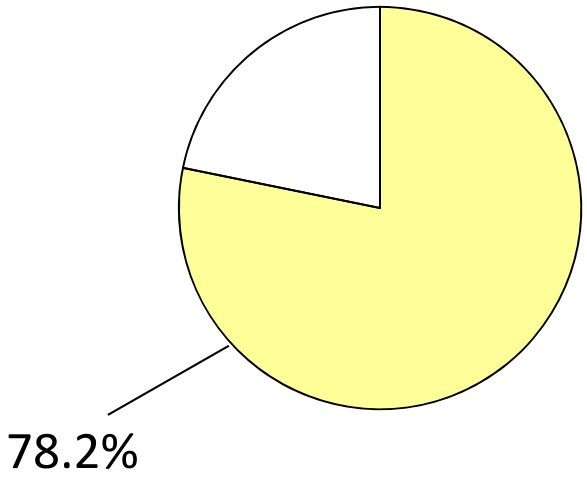
Rapid Expansion of FLMMA Network

In 2013:

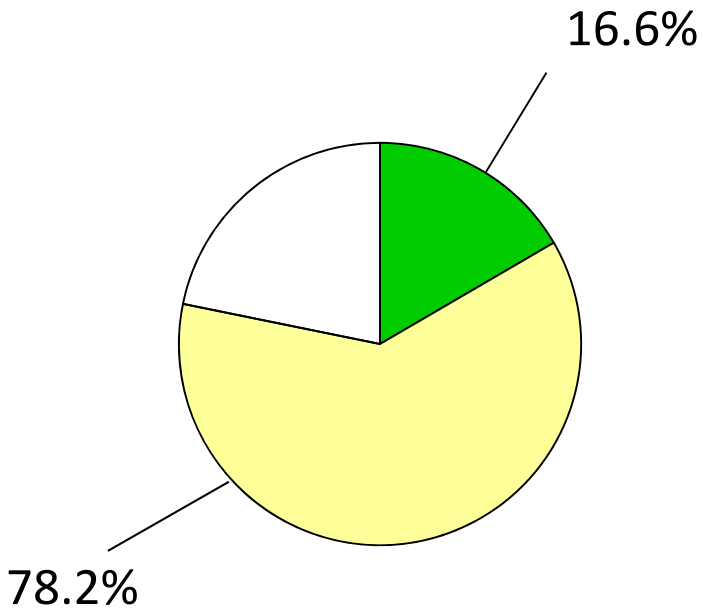
Covers approx. 78.2% of inshore area

425 closures

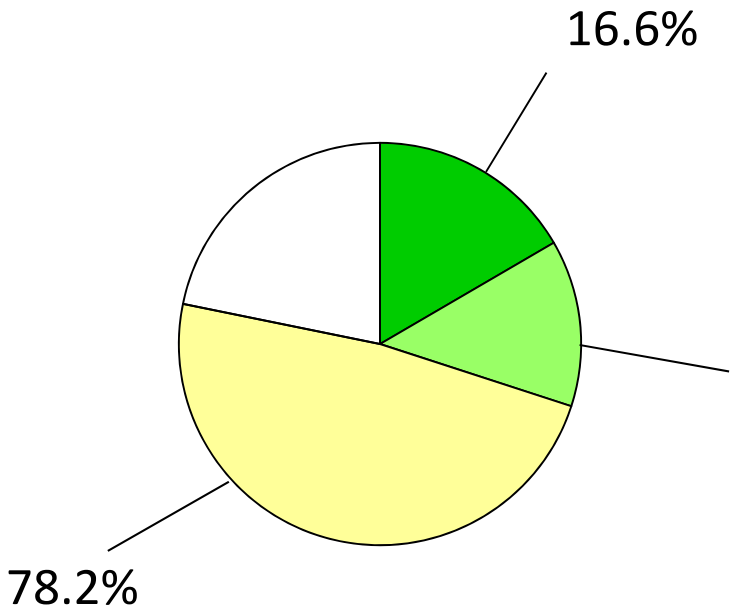




2014 FLMMA Qoliqoli Coverage

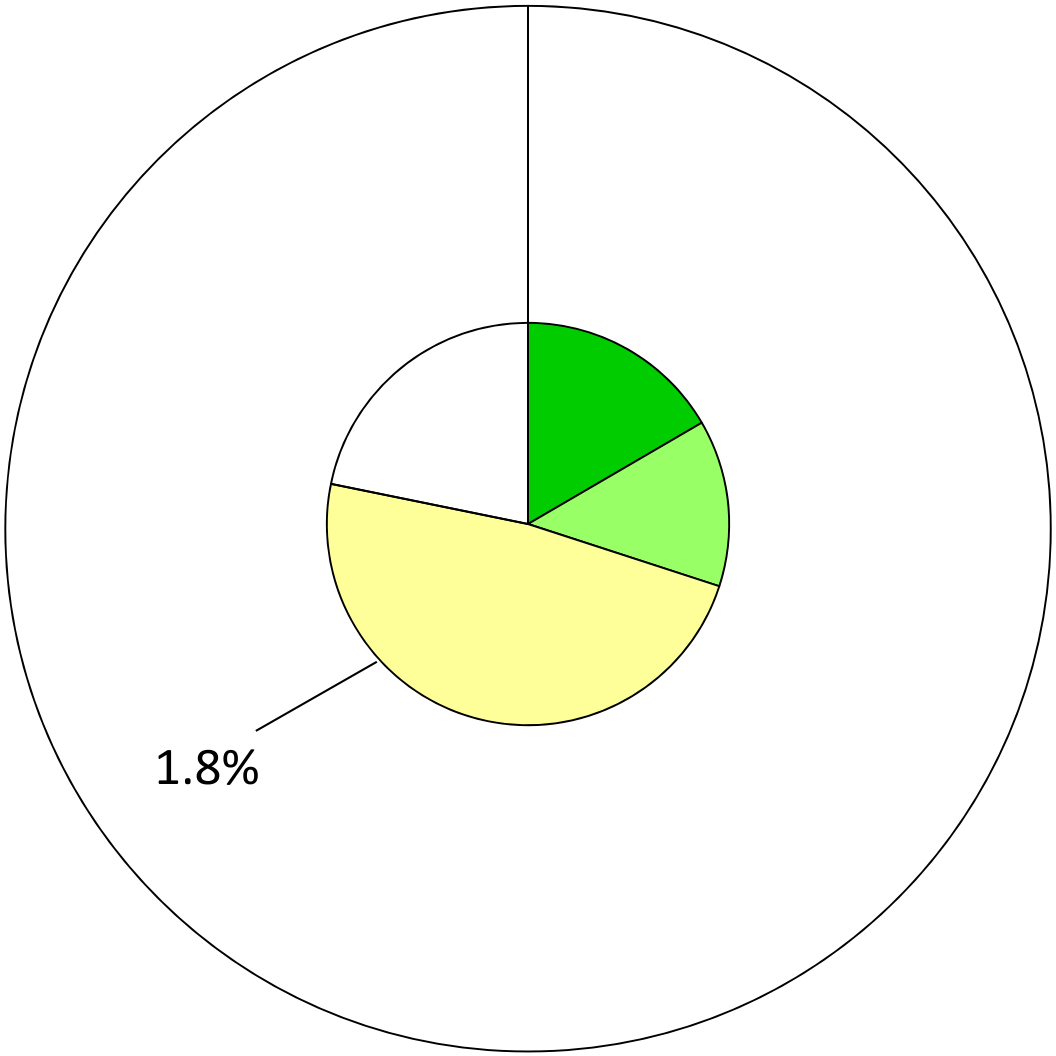


2013 FLMMA “Effective” Qoliqoli Coverage



2013 FLMMA "Effective" Qoliqoli Coverage

Fiji’s qoliqoli cover
2.3% of EEZ

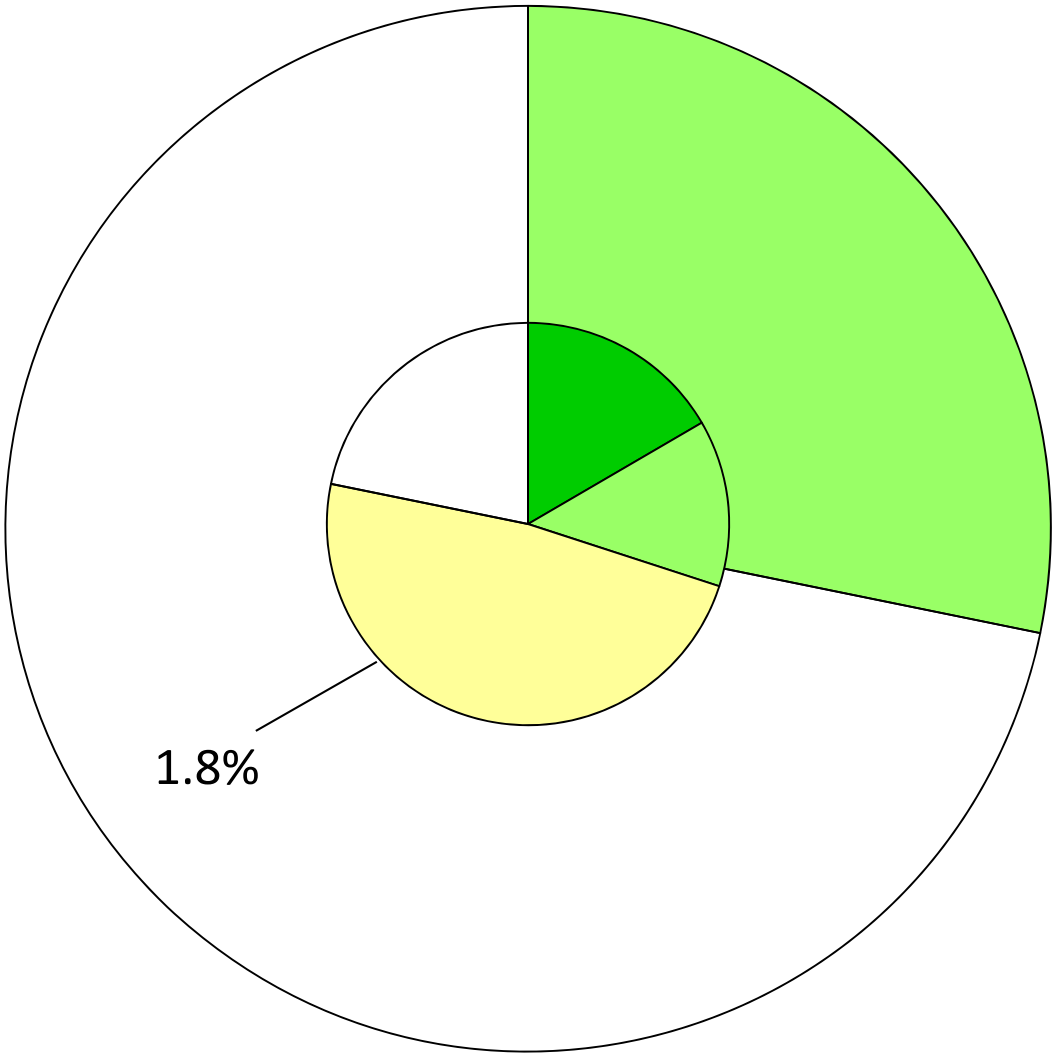


Within EEZ Protection

To reach 30% target:

28.2% of area outside qoliqoli, within EEZ needs protection

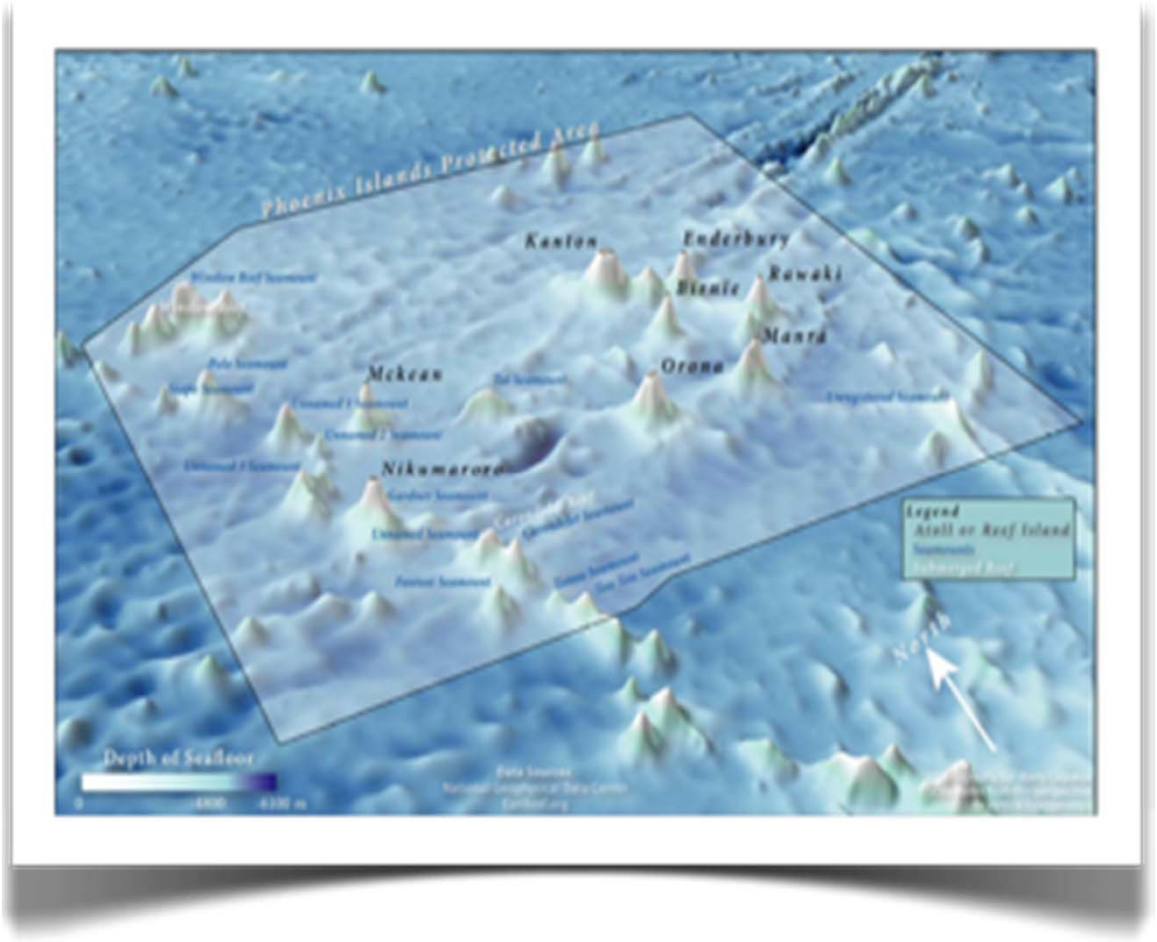
366,604 km²



Area Needed to Meet 30% Target

Other Pacific Countries & Territories Taking Action

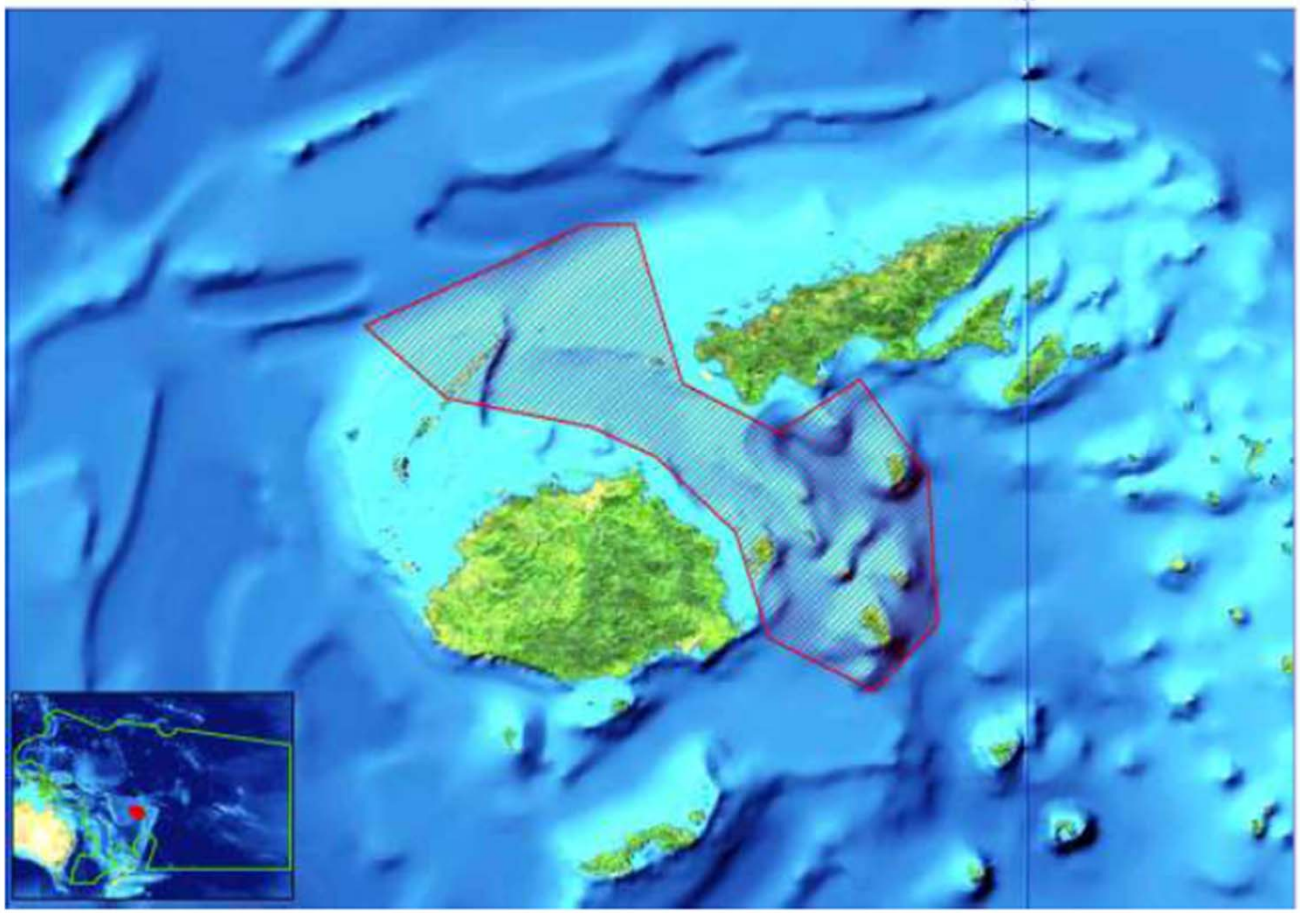
Large, offshore marine managed areas

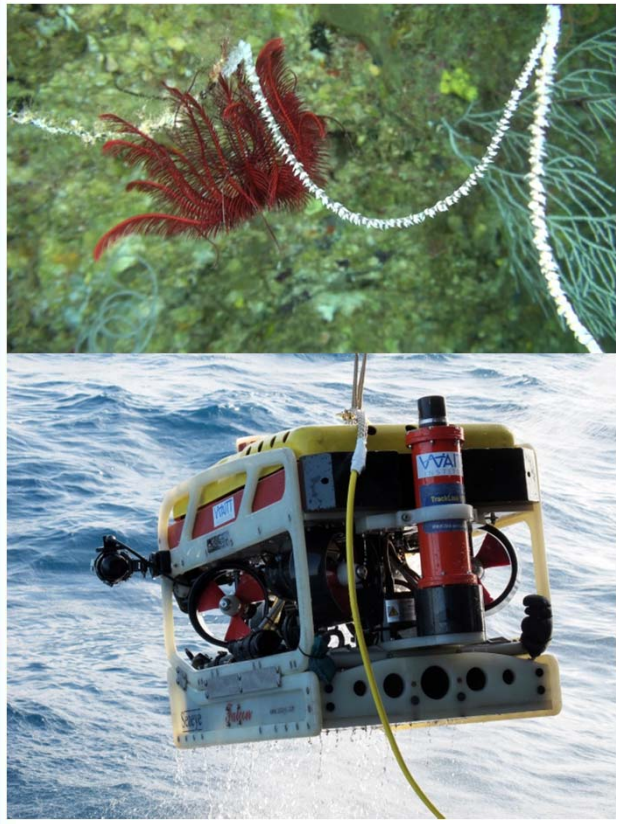


- 2006: Kiribati Phoenix Islands Protected Area (408,250 km^2 multiple use →100% no-take)
- 2012: Cook Islands Marine Park (1.1 million km^2 multiple use)
- 2012: New Caledonia (1.4 million km^2 multiple use)
- President Obama just pledged to increase US Pacific Remote Islands National Monument from 225,329 to 2,025,300 km^2

Where in Fiji: EBSAs accepted by CBD

- Vatu-i-Ra/Lomaviti area described as EBSA at CBD regional meeting for western south Pacific, Nadi, November 2011
- Nominations adopted by CBD COP11 Decision UNEP/CBD/COP/DEC/XI/17





Sensitive deepwater biodiversity

Vatu-i-Ra Seascape: Dive Tourism Hotspot

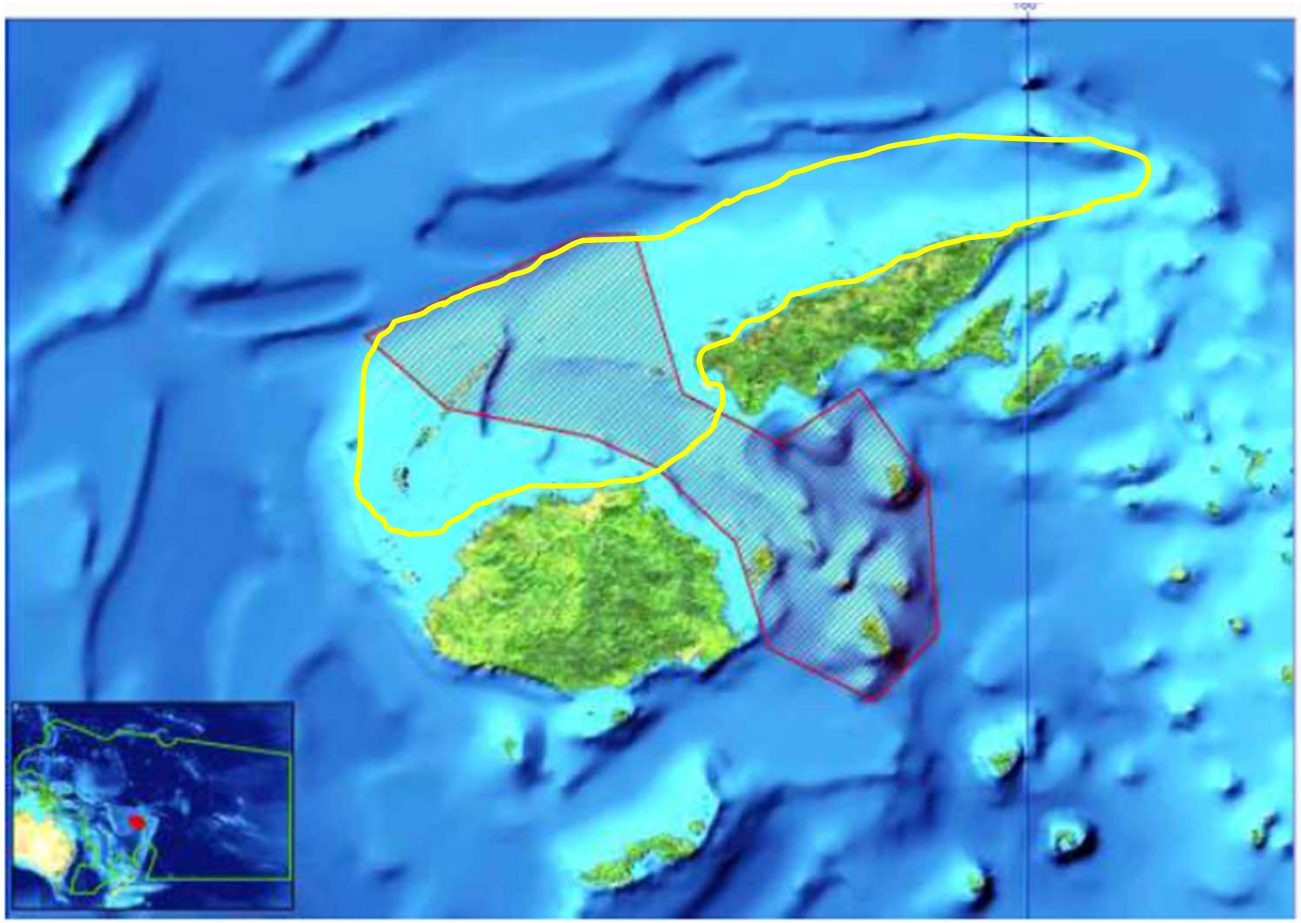
- Protection of Vatu-i-Ra Seascape promoted by Nai'a owners
- Mainstay of best dive sites in Fiji
- Unique seamounts, reef walls, manta ray cleaning stations, grey reef shark pupping grounds
- Economic value from dive tourism: FJ$47M annually

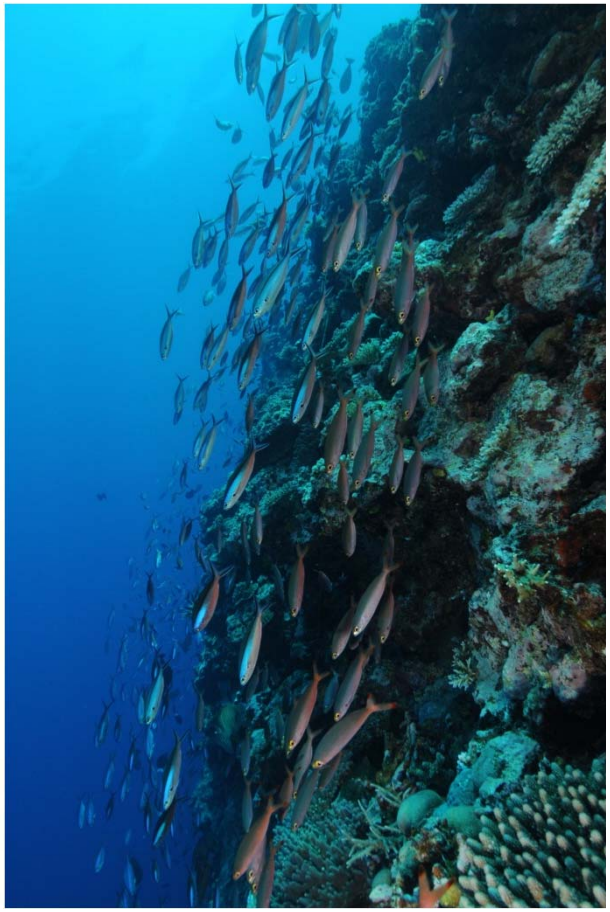
Vatu-i-Ra Seascape: Fisheries Value

- Vatu-i-Ra communities highly dependent on catch for food and income
- ~70% of catch in Fiji is sold
- TEV catch (inshore and offshore) approx. FJ$24M annually
- Communities active in Fiji LMMA network
- High proportion of management concentrated in Vatu-i-Ra Seascape provinces

Where in Fiji: Great Sea Reef

- Portion of Great Sea Reef covered in Vatu-i-Ra/Lomaviti area described as EBSA – this could be extended



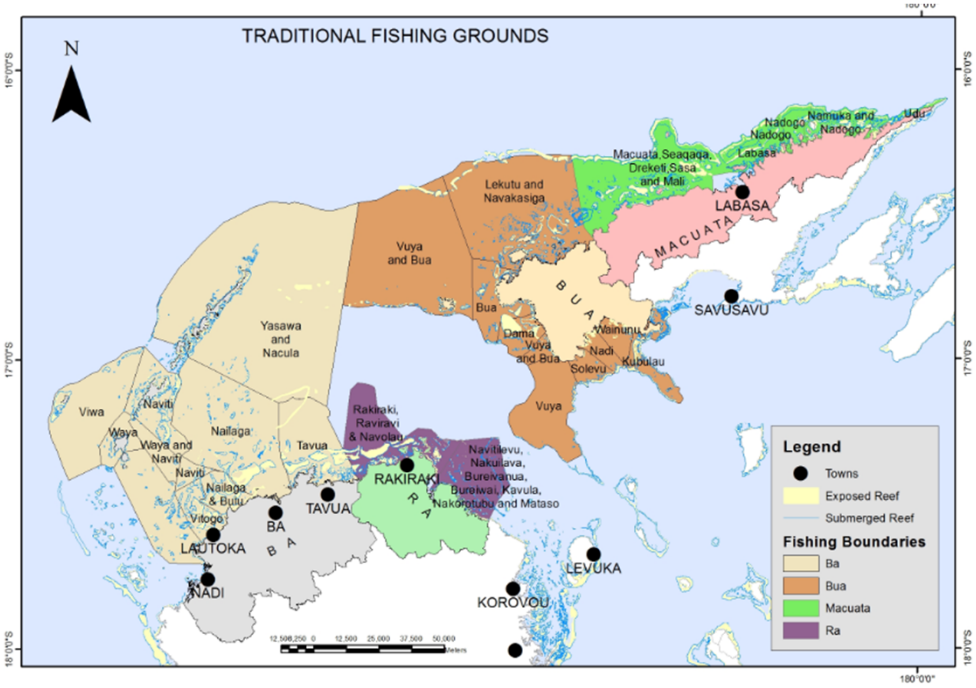


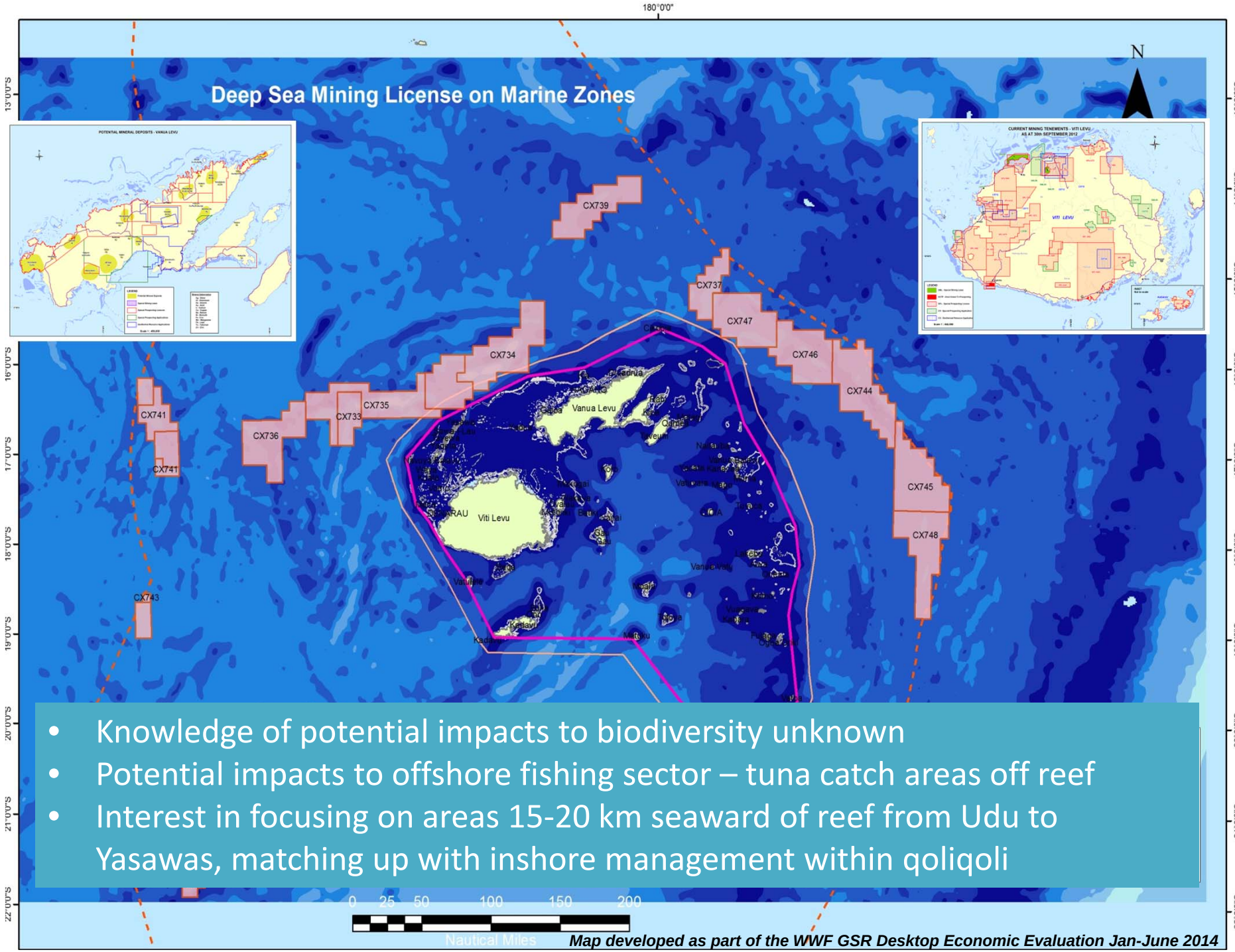
Ecological Value of Great Sea Reef

- 3rd longest reef system in southern hemisphere
- 44% of Fiji's endemic reef fish species; 40% of all known marine flora in Fiji; 74% of known coral species in Fiji; 55% of known reef fish in Fiji
- Important nesting and feeding grounds for marine turtles
- Migratory passage for whales and turtles in and out of Fiji

Fisheries Value of Great Sea Reef

Divisional Level data based on commercial inshore fisheries catch and licenses issued indicate the northern division as the main production area in Fiji. Production led by Macuata, then Bua and Cakaudrove.



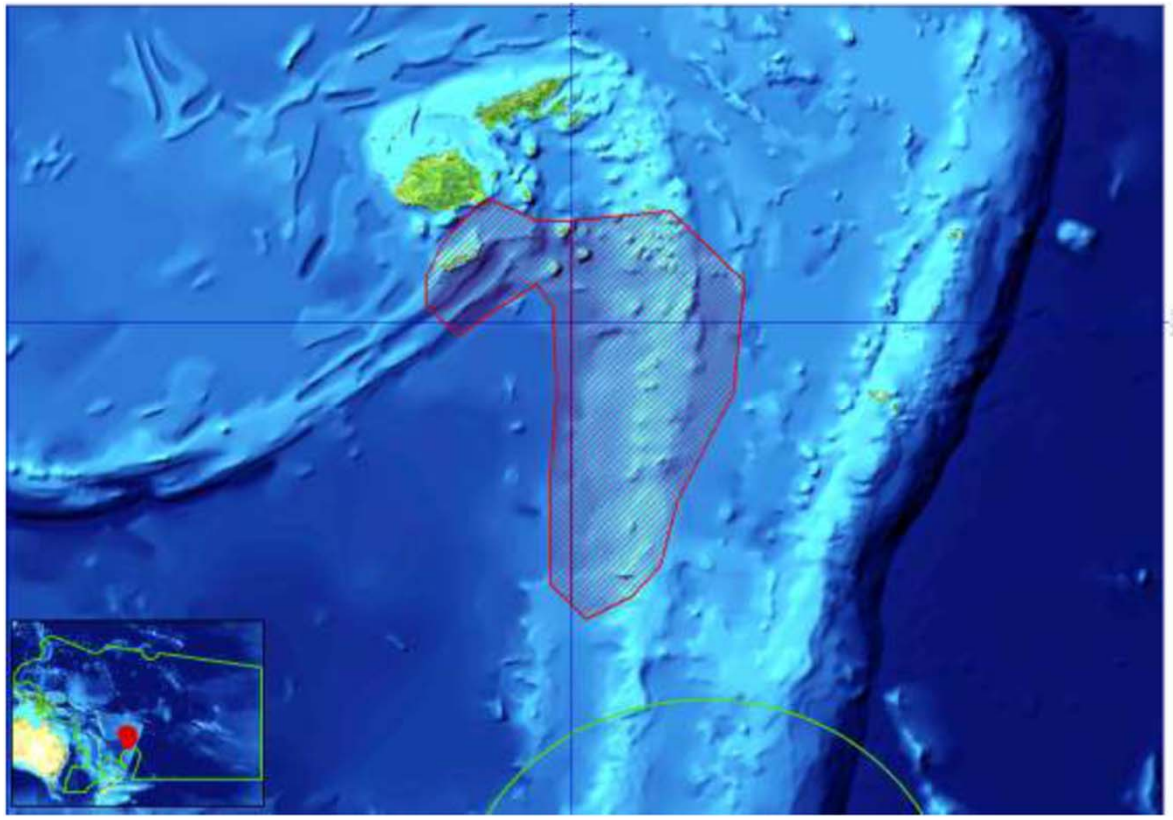


- Knowledge of potential impacts to biodiversity unknown
- Potential impacts to offshore fishing sector – tuna catch areas off reef
- Interest in focusing on areas 15-20 km seaward of reef from Udu to Yasawas, matching up with inshore management within qoliqoli

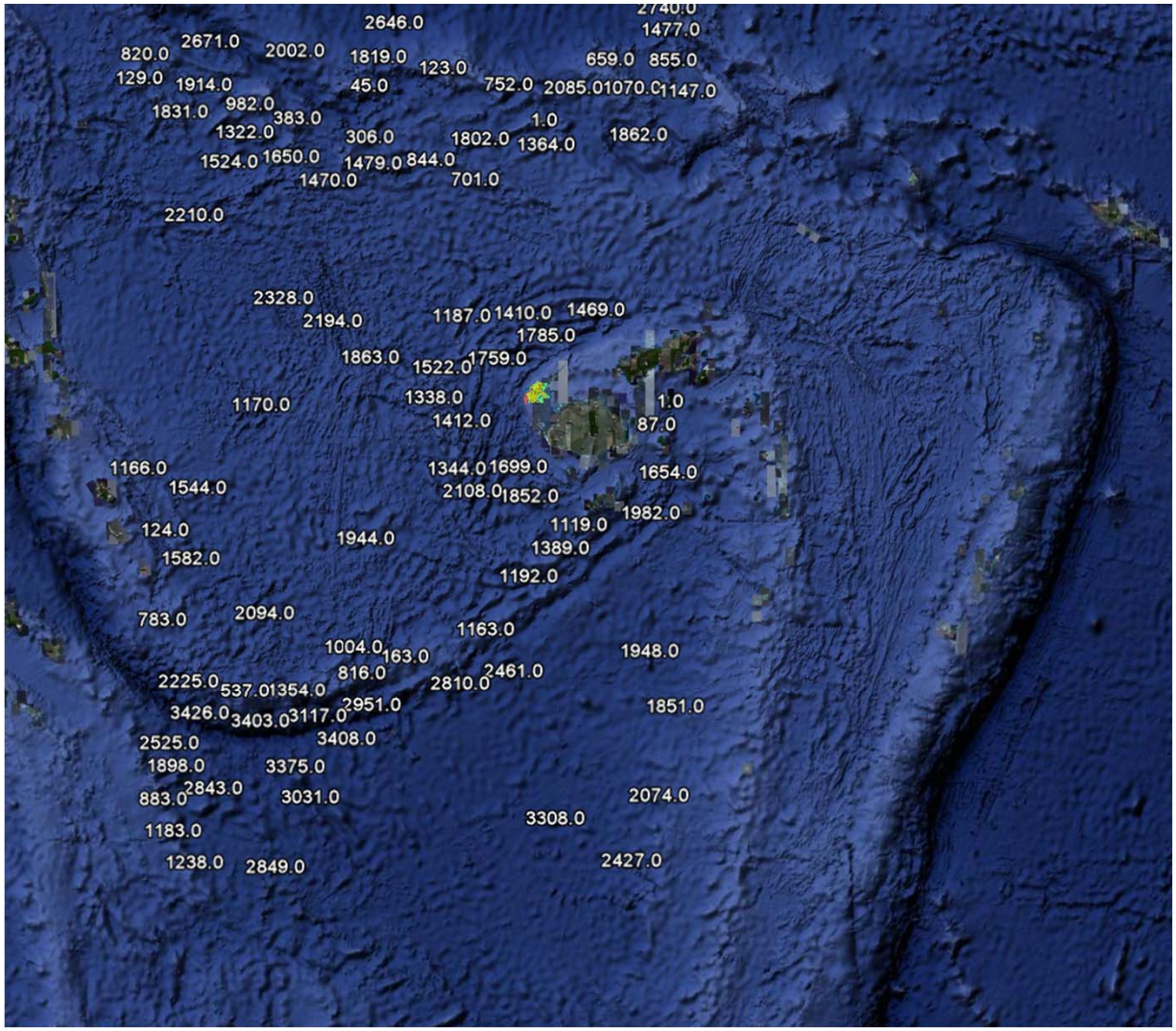
Map developed as part of the WWF GSR Desktop Economic Evaluation Jan-June 2014

Where in Fiji: Kadavu and Southern Lau

- Described as EBSA
- Covers seamounts and important upwelling and downwelling areas
- Important migratory corridor for humpback whales
- Important foraging area for seabirds and turtles



25% of seamounts, 50% of deep passages and 100% of deep trenches known from 2009



Protected Area Committee target set in 2010 as part of Fiji's Programme of Work on Protected Areas

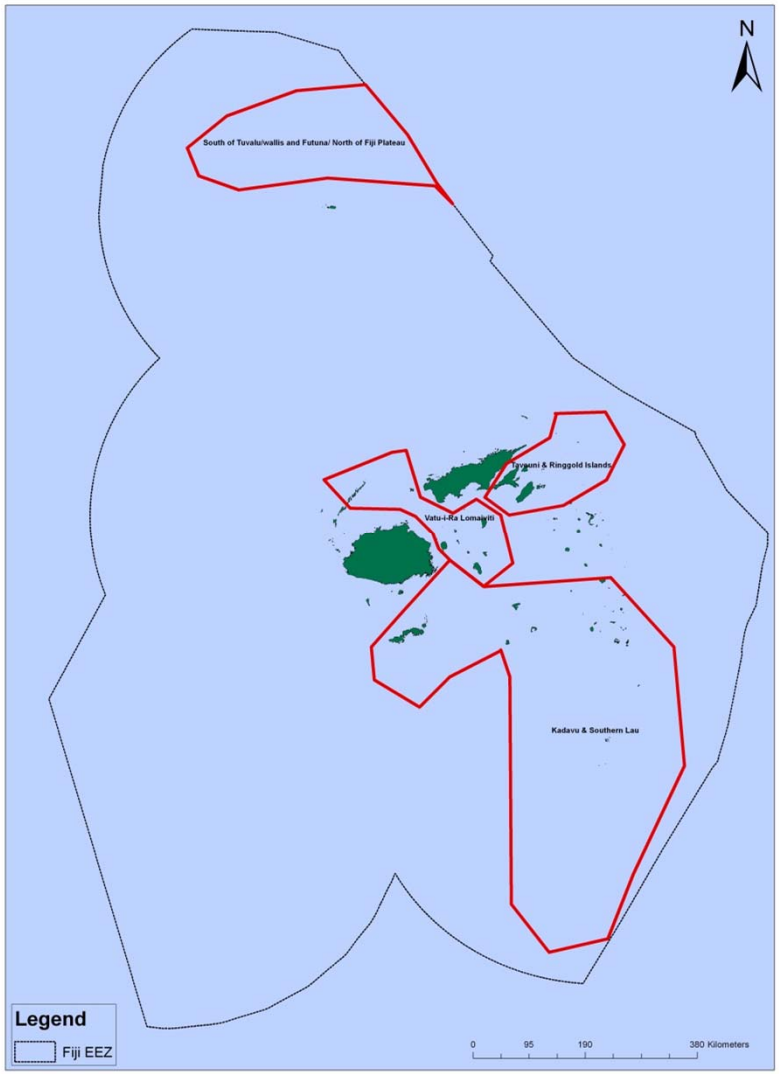
Economic value: Yachting

In 2012, the annual total contribution of yachting to Fiji's economy was approximately FJD $30 million dollars with over FJD $5 million dollars going into Government revenue

Lau is premier yachting destination, with interest in developing a port of entry there

Potential attraction of offshore MPAs to yachting community

Filling the Protection Gaps

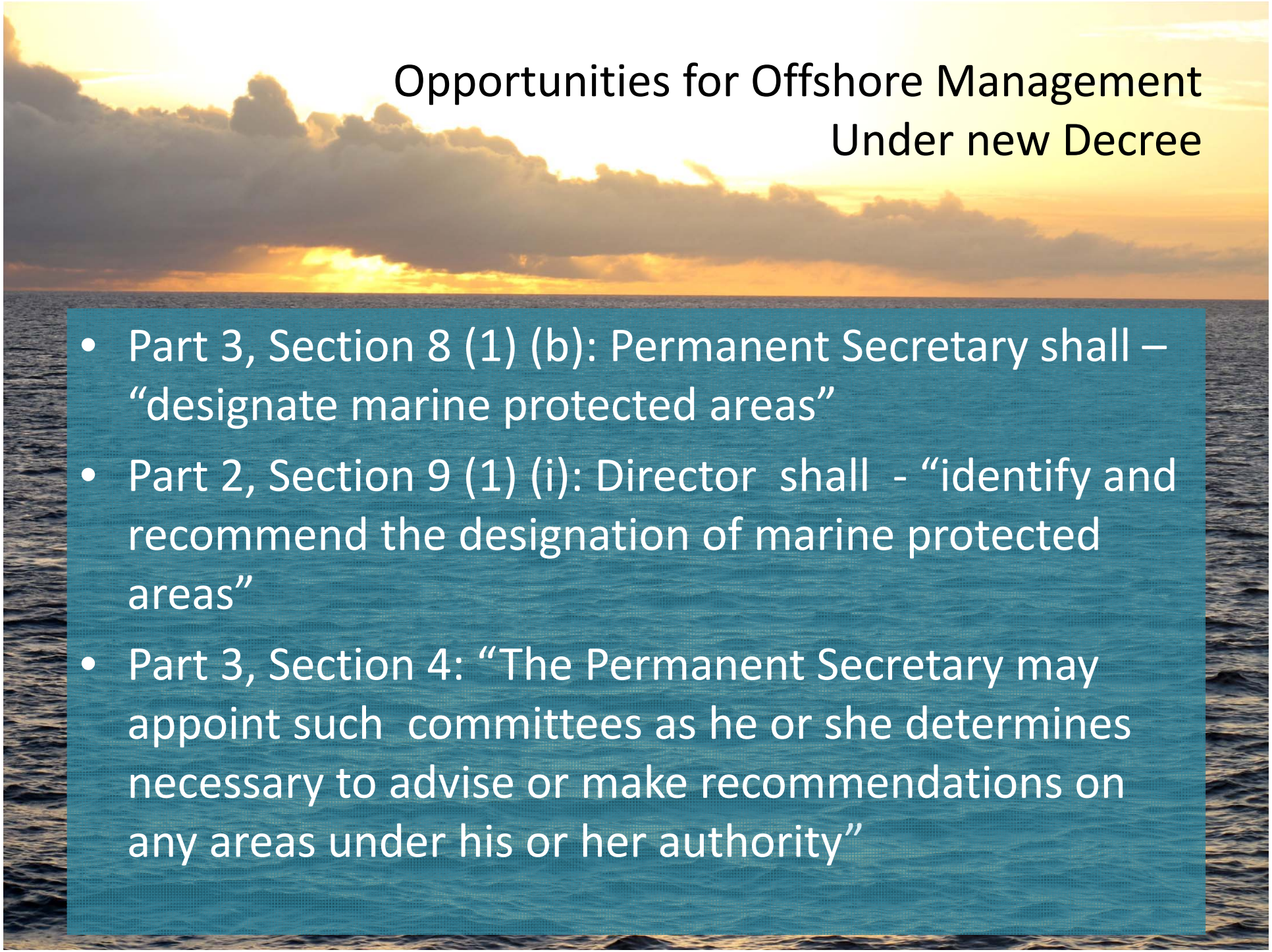


Total area within EEZ, outside of qoliqoli: **257,551 km²**

366,604 km² needed to make 30% coverage target by 2020

Look for opportunities within the Areas of Interest (AOIs), and other places of value for Fiji

Undertake spatial planning exercise to better account for multiple values (possible funding through MACBIO project)



Opportunities for Offshore Management Under new Decree

- Part 3, Section 8 (1) (b): Permanent Secretary shall – "designate marine protected areas"
- Part 2, Section 9 (1) (i): Director shall - "identify and recommend the designation of marine protected areas"
- Part 3, Section 4: "The Permanent Secretary may appoint such committees as he or she determines necessary to advise or make recommendations on any areas under his or her authority"

Moving Forward: Recommendations

1. Increase effective management of inshore LMMAs

2. Agree to develop process for establishing Offshore MPAs under new Decree

3. Cabinet Paper submission – identify lead Ministry(ies)

4. Statement at Beche-de-Mer and future of coastal fisheries Summit, co-hosted by Fiji (Aug)

5. Statement at SIDS conference in Apia (Sep)

6. Statement at World Parks Congress in Sydney (Nov)