



## PROGRESSING FIJI'S COMMITMENT TO 30% MARINE PROTECTED AND MANAGED AREAS BY 2020

Fiji has committed to a national network of 30% marine managed/protected areas by 2020 at the Small Island Developing States meetings in Mauritius (2005, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs) and recommitted to this at the SIDS meeting in Samoa in 2014 (Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics). This commitment was reaffirmed in Fiji's Green Growth Framework (2014), at the United Nations Oceans Conference (June 2017) and National Development Plan (2017).

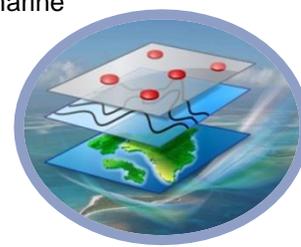
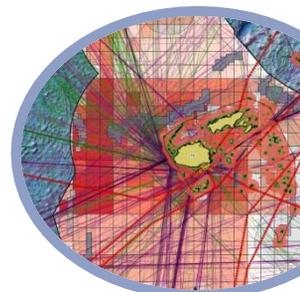
Since 2014, the cross-sectoral Marine Working Group (MWG) of Fiji's Protected Area Committee (PAC) has been working with NGOs and other partners to support the government in delivering on this commitment, including the coordination of targeted efforts in Vatu-i-Ra, the Great Sea Reef, Lau and Kadavu. The PAC, and its working groups, has formal status as it was established by the National Environment Council (authorized within the Environment Management Act 2005). The NEC, a Permanent-Secretary-level forum, was briefed on the progress to date on 8th March 2018. The Ministry of Fisheries also seeks advice from the Marine Protected Area (MPA) Technical Committee that it has established to further progress this national commitment.

The members of these various advisory groups include technical experts from NGOs and the following Government Ministries:

- **Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Environment, Infrastructure and Transport**
- **Ministry of Fisheries**
- **Ministry of Economy, Public Enterprise, Civil Service and Communications**
- **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**
- **Ministry of i-Taukei Affairs**
- **Ministry of Agriculture, Rural and Maritime Development and National Disaster Management**
- **Ministry of Department of Lands and Mineral Resources**
- **Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism (Department of Tourism)**
- **Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji**
- **Fiji Navy**

The advisory groups have prepared a ten-step plan to delivering the 30% MPAs by 2020, of which many steps have already been implemented: definition of the vision and objectives for the 30% MPAs, a national marine ecosystem service valuation, analysis of the legal basis for a national network of MPAs, defining an MPA typology, describing both special, unique marine areas of Fiji and the entire marine environment of Fiji into marine bioregions.

Next steps include development of: guidelines to inform decisions about where to put different types of MPAs; a national consultation strategy; the legal basis for the MPA network; and then the conduct of the national consultations to lead to a map of MPAs for Fiji.





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- 2005 and 2014** Fiji committed to 30% marine managed/protected areas by 2020 at the Small Island Developing States meetings in Mauritius and Samoa, respectively
- 2014-2016** 130 spatial datasets on uses, biodiversity, environmental condition and risks collated and made accessible
- 2015** Vision and Objectives for Fiji's 30% network of MPAs defined
- 2016** Marine Protected Area (MPA) Typology drafted
- 2016** National Marine Ecosystem Service Valuation report launched
- 2016** Analysis of 85 legal instruments as a basis for MPAs – report published
- 2016** Biophysically Special, Unique Marine Areas of Fiji identified
- 2016** Ocean-wide description of marine environment (marine bioregions) developed
- 2017** At the UN Ocean Conference, Fiji announced 17 voluntary commitments towards marine protection and sustainable management including a national network of marine managed areas #OceanAction 19904.
- 2018** Report on an ocean-wide description of Fiji's marine environment (into 27 marine bioregions) published
- 2018** Report on Fiji's Biophysically Special, Unique Marine Areas (over 80 sites) published
- 2018** Placement guidelines for MPAs drafted
- 2018** 1st round of National Public Consultations to identify candidate sites for MPAs initiated - *nb. government process*
- 2019** 2nd round of National Public consultation to review candidate MPA sites, including candidate sites for national MPA network - *nb. government process*
- 2020** Final Map for Gazettal - *nb. government process*



Further reading: [www.macbio-pacific.info/fiji](http://www.macbio-pacific.info/fiji)