



INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE TO  
COMBAT OCEAN ACIDIFICATION

# CASE STUDY: FIJI



OA MEMBER:

# FIJI



MEMBER TYPE:  
**GOVERNMENT MEMBER**

POINT OF CONTACT:



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## LOCATION & DEMOGRAPHY:



**CONTINENT:**  
OCEANIA

**OCEAN BASIN:**  
PACIFIC

**POPULATION SIZE:**  
896,400

## KILOMETERS OF COASTLINE:



# 1129 km

## REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT MARINE ECOSYSTEMS:



**CORAL  
REEFS**



**OPEN  
OCEAN**



**MANGROVES**

## CLIMATE-OCEAN CHANGE CONCERNS IN THE AREA:

- Ocean warming
- Ocean & coastal acidification
- Sea-level rise
- Severe weather events
- Habitat availability
- Species migration

## REGIONALLY SIGNIFICANT USES OF RESOURCES:



**Ecotourism**



**Coastal  
tourism**



**Artisanal or  
subsistence  
fisheries**



**Commercial  
fisheries**



**Food  
Security**



**Cultural  
practices  
or traditions**

# OCEAN RESOURCES IN YOUR AREA

Fiji is an archipelago of more than 300 islands. Known for its beautifully rugged landscapes, palm-lined beaches and coral reefs with clear lagoons, the major two islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, contain most of the population.

Fish and fishing are extremely important to the economy. A large number of people are employed in the fisheries sector and fish makes an important contribution to the diet of local residents. In addition, fishing is cherished for its recreational and social aspects. Fisheries is the third largest natural resource sector. Additionally, tourism an important industry for Fiji which relies on healthy marine ecosystems to sustain (FOA.)

**FIJI'S MARINE ECOSYSTEM SERVICES ARE WORTH MORE THAN FJD2.5 BILLION PER YEAR**

## CLIMATE-OCEAN CHANGE TRENDS OR CONCERNS

Concerns regarding climate change identified by policy makers, communities, industry or scientists in the region:



Increased acidification, combined with other climate impacts like ocean warming, is causing the loss of coral reef and other dangers to marine life. Even with efforts to reduce carbon emissions aggressively and limit this global temperature rise, it is predicted that 90% of coral reefs will be lost by 2050.

This not only affects our coastal communities, but the fisheries sector and the economies generated through them. The immediate effects of this are already being faced in the Pacific, for example in Kiribati where 90% of the coral reefs were lost in the years 2015- 2016.

In Fiji, we also have an oyster industry - it produces beautiful colorful pearls and these are a revenue generator for our people.

## Entities helping to advance ocean monitoring and research that will have practical management applicability related to understanding OA

Through the New Zealand Pacific Partnership on OA, the New Zealand government is helping to provide trainings and leading efforts to educate scientists, marine specialists, communities and villages about OA across the Pacific region. The Ocean Foundation is also providing training and resources to universities in Fiji, which will help to carry out measurements of alkalinity and report statistics for immediate action. Thanks to these efforts, a total of 13 sites are being monitored since November 2012.

Through the generosity of the Ocean Foundation, a GOAON Monitoring Kit was given to Fiji and is managed by the University of the South Pacific.

The National Oceanography Centre of the UK further donated a pH sensor and Nitrate sensor (both climate-quality) which have been deployed since March 2018. The Pacific Islands and Territories Ocean Acidification Monitoring Network (PI-TOA) was created in 2018

# POLICY VEHICLES FOR ADDRESSING CLIMATE-OCEAN CHANGE

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## On a national level:

Fiji has a OA Action plan that address trends of ocean warming, acidification or deoxygenation as part of their National Ocean Policy implementation.

## Supporting International and Domestic Climate-Ocean Commitments:

Fiji joined the OA Alliance in 2017 at COP23. Fiji helps lead and coordinate numerous activities and negotiations internationally and across Pacific Island Countries, finding the synergies and the gaps across the different UN bodies to address climate and ocean issues such as ocean acidification.

Specific vehicles include UN SDGs, UNFCCC, CBD, BBNJ and blue carbon initiatives including MPAs. We also work together in areas of adaptation and mitigation such as those relating to fisheries, shipping transport, MPAs, and the exploration of blue carbon economies and putting in a strategy into the UNFCCC proves OA is an important part of this bigger picture approach. As a member of the OA Alliance, Fiji can further encourage a global vision for engagement on ocean acidification while also helping to elevate the economic and cultural value of our oceans.

An aerial photograph of a tropical island. The island is covered in dense, vibrant green forest. The water surrounding the island is a clear, turquoise color, with some darker patches indicating deeper water. A small, sandy beach is visible on the left side of the island. The overall scene is serene and natural.

*“Support and cooperation are needed by the alliance. This can be achieved in the form of information sharing of recent science, importance of best practices to mitigate and adapt and a call for collaboration.”*

- Semi Koroilavesau, Fiji Minister of Fisheries



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Learn more about how you can advance climate-ocean action  
through the OA Alliance. Visit:  
[www.oaalliance.org](http://www.oaalliance.org)

 [@OA\\_Alliance](https://twitter.com/OA_Alliance)

This case study was published on 2022.  
However, please note that climate-ocean commitments, policies, and priorities are dynamic. They are responsive to new information, administration changes and funding. Activities reflected here may have changed or evolved since the time of this publication.