



Session V: Climate Change Impacts on Ecosystems
& Livelihoods of IPLCs

Pacific Community Led Initiatives

Alfred Balifo

1.5°C vs 2°C GLOBAL WARMING

SPECIES

1.5°C

6% of insects, 8% of plants and 4% of vertebrates will be affected

2°C

18% of insects, 16% of plants and 8% of vertebrates will be affected

SEA-LEVEL RISE

1.5°C

10cm higher at 2°C than at 1.5°C in 2100.

This difference would expose up to 10 million more people to risks.

CORAL BLEACHING

1.5°C

70% of world's coral reefs are lost by 2050

2°C

Virtually all coral reefs are lost by 2050



Based on the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C and Special Report on Oceans and Cryosphere in a Changing Climate.

Impacts of Cyclone Winston on Coral Reefs in Fiji – Vatu-i-ra Seascape (WCS Rapid Assessment)

- altered landscapes and communities along its main pathway
- caused significant damage to coral reefs up to 20-30m below the sea surface.
- damage to coral reefs was highest in the north where the eye of the cyclone passed
- damage to reefs impacted reef fish population – loss of habitats, feeding grounds, exposure to predators, etc
- Reefs ecosystems already under stress from severe sea surface temperature increase and coral bleaching event prior to Cyclone Winston
- impacts on land and mangroves will further exacerbate impacts on coral reefs and marine biodiversity
- impact of cyclone Winston on coral reefs further exacerbated by anthropogenic impacts – pollution, agricultural runoffs, sedimentation, over-fishing exposing reefs to diseases, parasites, etc
- Impacts on Vatu-i-ra Seascape will also have far and widespread impacts due to connectivity of ecosystems and the migratory nature of certain species



Recovery possible but dependent on number of factors:

- Healthy ecosystems are more resilient and recover quickly
- Reduce anthropogenic stresses – pollution, overfishing, etc
- Protection should be provided to coral reefs that are not damaged by cyclones – they will provide seed for recovery of adjacent reefs – [Coral Reef Rescue Initiative](#)
- More comprehensive assessments needed to assess impacts of Disaster on Biodiversity – help inform preparedness and recovery plans for nature and people



Importance of Fiji's Great Sea Reef

- Over 450 km long and spans five provinces
- Third longest barrier reef globally
- Divided into customary fishing areas known as *qoliqoli*

Reef fisheries are managed by 33 *qoliqoli* communities.

To manage these fisheries, communities use:

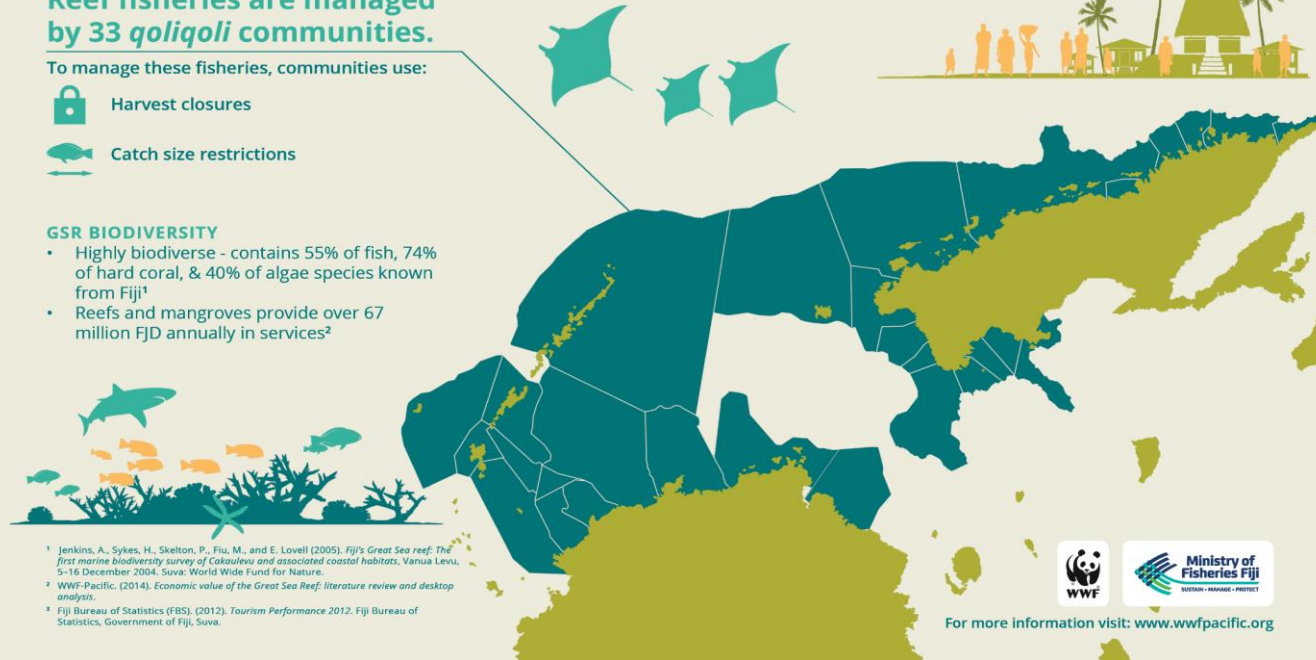
-  Harvest closures
-  Catch size restrictions

GSR BIODIVERSITY

- Highly biodiverse - contains 55% of fish, 74% of hard coral, & 40% of algae species known from Fiji¹
- Reefs and mangroves provide over 67 million FJD annually in services²

GSR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMY

- 33% of Fiji's population lives near the GSR²
- Major tourism hub - generates over 25% of Fiji's GDP³
- Source of over 75% of Fijian inshore fish for consumption²



¹ Jenkins, A., Sykes, H., Skelton, P., Fiu, M., and E. Lovell (2005). *Fiji's Great Sea Reef: The first marine biodiversity survey of Cakaulevu and associated coastal habitats*, Vanua Levu, 5-16 December 2004. Suva: World Wide Fund for Nature.

² WWF-Pacific. (2014). *Economic value of the Great Sea Reef: literature review and desktop analysis*.

³ Fiji Bureau of Statistics (FBS). (2012). *Tourism Performance 2012*. Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Government of Fiji, Suva.



For more information visit: www.wwfpacific.org

A Fijian Case Study

- A multi-thronged, integrated, rights-based approach, with people and nature at the heart and center of all decision making processes
- Multi-partnership and strong collaboration
- On the ground action with IPLCs
- Communicating and advocating best practices, influencing national, regional and global policy processes
- Scaling up, scaling wide and scaling deep

- Nacula Tikina Disaster Risk Reduction Plan
- Fisheries Management Plan
- Women Empowerment
- Traditional Leadership and Culture
- Education
- Resilient Infrastructure
- Ecosystem Restoration
- Community Based Mangrove Management Plan
- Economic Wellbeing, Sustainable Livelihoods, etc
- Partnerships



Amplifying Community Voices and Learning and Sharing #ShareYourStory

- Oceania First Voices
- Community Led Initiatives on Environment Sustainability
- A celebration of community innovation and efforts



Oceania First Voices Conference Outcome Summary

Overall Message

We are not here yet. As we hear the Oceania First Voices Inaugural First Peoples Forum deliver a message of hope, Participants from across the Pacific, including Australia and Indonesia, came together and underscored the need for Governments to take urgent action on climate, particularly the need for that action to respect and value traditional knowledge and Indigenous Peoples.

Participants also affirmed the solidarity that existed between Indigenous Peoples from across the Pacific.

They had a powerful message for Governments everywhere: First Peoples must be included in climate change decisions and their traditional knowledge must be respected.

This call will help to build an COP 27, the UN climate change conference to be held in Egypt this November.

The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) welcomed the First Peoples Forum, including Governor Mervyn Dymally.


"We brought people together locally as one group of First Peoples across the region, to have our voice in places that matter – at the United Nations, at the COP 27 International Forum, First Peoples' traditional expertise," said COP 27 Office Manager Indigenous Engagement, WWF Australia.

Leanea Natuvu, the First Peoples community leader in Fiji's home, left the conference with a powerful message: We are not here yet. There is still time to act on climate change and to defend the rights and respect for First Nations communities that they are owed.

Key Outcomes

1. Take real action to implement Indigenous Peoples' Rights as a way to build a sustainable, meaningful, and accessible Indigenous communities across Oceania to face the present and future climate change and to address their communities' needs. Reason: action is continuously a lack of rights over their traditional lands and seas, regions consistently where rights are respected, and a deficiency in good faith engagement from Government authorities. Securing full implementation of rights, particularly those contained in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and a commitment to removal of regulations on First Nations communities use their traditional land is crucial to empowering First Nations peoples to resist climate change.

One Voice. One People. One World.



The 2023 Inaugural National Symposium for Community Led Initiatives on Environment Sustainability

19th to the 21st of September, 2023
Holiday Inn, Suva Fiji
2023 Kauvai Communique

The 2023 National Symposium for Community led Initiatives on Environment Sustainability held in Suva from the 19th to the 21st of September, brought together representatives from 30 community groups from across Fiji. Themed "Share Your Story", the three-day event engaged participants in storytelling, mutual learning, and relationship-building.

Over the course of these three days, we had the opportunity to exchange our experiences and achievements concerning:

1. Enhancing food security by means of community-driven sustainable fisheries and agriculture practices, aimed at creating thriving, healthy, and resilient communities.
2. Facilitating access to clean energy and energy-efficient technologies for sustainable and resilient development in rural communities.
3. Exploring sustainable urban solutions and strategies for cities towards achieving Fiji's obligations under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Together, we celebrated our collective accomplishments, innovation, gained insights from each other, shared valuable lessons and best practices, and deepened our longstanding cultural and spiritual connections with one another and with our precious land and marine resources.

In our role as the traditional custodians of our land and marine resources, we:

- are proud of our large ocean state and the mammoth task bestowed on us as stewards of our blue continent
- acknowledge our innate connection with the natural world and our responsibility to sustainably manage and use these resources wisely, for the benefit of our present and future generations.
- acknowledge the interconnectedness of the land, rivers, and seas and understand that effectively addressing our current global crisis demands the collective cooperation and collaboration of individuals and communities from diverse sectors and backgrounds
- acknowledge the significance of the ancestral wisdom passed down through generations and the crucial role that traditional knowledge and values play in the preservation and responsible management of our land and marine resources, as well as in our interactions with community members, development partners, government leaders, and other stakeholders.

National Symposium for Community Led Initiatives on Environmental Sustainability
19-21st September, Suva, Fiji





Faiakseáa!
#togetherpossible
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