



Convention on
Biological Diversity



Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossier: FIJI

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GLOSSARY

AZEs	Alliance for Zero Extinction sites
CEPF	Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund
EBSA	Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Area
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GD-PAME	Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IBA	Important Bird and Biodiversity Area
ICCAs	Indigenous and Community Conserved Area Area (may also be referred to as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities or “territories of life”)
IPLC	Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities
KBA	Key Biodiversity Area
MEOW	Marine Ecosystems of the World
MPA	Marine Protected Area
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
OECD	Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures
PA	Protected Area
PAME	Protected Area Management Effectiveness
PPA	Privately Protected Area
PPOW	Pelagic Provinces of the World
ProtConn	Protected Connected land indicator
SOC	Soil Organic Carbon
TEOW	Terrestrial Ecosystems of the World
WDPA	World Database on Protected Areas
WD-OECD	World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures

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Disclaimer

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This country dossier is compiled by the UNDP and SCBD from publicly available information. It is prepared, within the overall work of the Global Partnership on Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, for the purpose of attracting the attention of the Party concerned and other national stakeholders to facilitate the verification, correcting, and updating of country data. The statistics might differ from those reported officially by the country due to differences in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage and differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory. Furthermore, the suggestions from the UNDP and SCBD are based on analyses of global datasets, which may not necessarily be representative of national policy or criteria used at the national level. The analyses are also subject to the limits inherent in global indicators (precision, reliability, underlying assumptions, etc.). Therefore, they provide useful information but cannot replace analyses at a national level nor constitute a future benchmark for national policy or decision-making.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document provides information on the coverage of protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs), as currently reported in global databases (the World Database on Protected Areas ([WDPA](#)) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures ([WD-OECM](#))). It also includes details on the status of the other qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 based on this data. These statistics might differ from those reported officially by countries due to difference in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage, differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory, or if global datasets differ from the criteria and indicators used at the national level. This dossier also provides a summary of commitments made under Aichi Biodiversity Target 11, and a summary of potential opportunities regarding elements of the target for future planning.

The dossier has been developed in consultation with the UN Environment Programme World Conservation Monitoring Centre (UNEP-WCMC), which manages the WDPA, WD-OECM and Global Database on Protected Area Management Effectiveness ([GD-PAME](#)). Parties to the CBD are requested to contact protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org with any updates to the information in these databases.

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Elements: Current status and opportunities for action

Coverage - Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** as of May 2021, terrestrial coverage in Fiji is 1,036.5 km² (5.4%) and marine coverage is 11,959.0 km² (0.9%).
- **Opportunities for action:** opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs, and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered when planning new PAs or OECMs.

Ecological Representativeness— Terrestrial & Marine

- **Status:** Fiji contains 2 terrestrial ecoregions, 3 marine ecoregions, and 1 pelagic province: the mean coverage by reported PAs and OECMs is 2.9% (terrestrial), 7.1% (marine), and 0.0% (pelagic); 2 marine ecoregions have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Fiji to increase protection in terrestrial and marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs. Ecoregions which currently have no coverage by PAs or OECMs are key areas for action.



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Areas Important for Biodiversity

- **Status:** Fiji has 51 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs): the mean protected coverage of KBAs by reported PAs and OECMs is 10.6%, while 33 KBAs have no coverage by reported PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for Fiji to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs; priority could be given to those with no current coverage.

Areas Important for Ecosystem Services

- **Status:** coverage of areas important for ecosystem services: In Fiji, 4.6% of aboveground biomass carbon, 4.5% of belowground biomass carbon, 7.3% of soil organic carbon, 1.2% of carbon stored in marine sediments is covered by PAs and OECMs.
- **Opportunities for action:** for carbon, there is opportunity for Fiji to increase PA and OECM coverage in both marine and terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.
- For water, there is opportunity to increase the area of the water catchment under protection by PAs and OECMs, or in cases where there is high levels of protection, focus on effective management for these areas. Protecting the current area of forested land and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security.

Connectivity and Integration

- **Status:** coverage of protected-connected lands is 3.0%.
- **Opportunities for action:** there is opportunity for a general increase of PAs or OECMs and to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Improving connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.
- As well, a range of suggested steps for enhancing and supporting integration are included in the voluntary guidance on the integration of PAs and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs (Annex I of COP Decision 14/8).

Governance Diversity

- **Status:** the most common governance type(s) for reported PAs in Fiji is: 72.6% under IPLCs (71.9% Indigenous Peoples, 0.7% Local communities).
- **Opportunities for action:** increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 13.7% of sites that do not have their governance type reported.
- There is also opportunity for Fiji to complete governance and equity assessments, to establish baselines and identify relevant actions for improvement. As well, a range



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of suggested actions are included in the voluntary guidance on effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity (Annex II of COP Decision 14/8).

Protected Area Management Effectiveness

- **Status:** 1.1% of terrestrial PAs and 0.9% of marine PAs have completed Protected Area Management Effectiveness (PAME) assessments reported.
- **Opportunities for action:** the 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs and **has not** been met for marine PAs. Therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for both terrestrial and marine PAs to achieve the target.
- There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting 'sound management') and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.



INTRODUCTION

The Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 was adopted at the tenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) held in Nagoya, Aichi Prefecture, Japan from 18-29 October 2010. The vision of the Strategic Plan is one of “Living in harmony with nature” where *“By 2050, biodiversity is valued, conserved, restored and wisely used, maintaining ecosystem services, sustaining a healthy planet and delivering benefits essential for all people”* (CBD, 2010). In addition to this vision, the Strategic Plan is composed of 20 targets, under five strategic goals. Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 states that *“By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.”*

With the conclusion of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets in 2020, Target 11 on area-based conservation has seen success in the expansion of the global network of protected areas (PA) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). The negotiation of the post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) and its future targets provide an essential opportunity to further improve the coverage of PAs and OECMs, to improve other aspects of area-based conservation, to accelerate progress on biodiversity conservation more broadly, while also addressing climate change, and the Sustainable Development Goals. This next set of global biodiversity targets are to be adopted at the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. These new targets must aim to build upon lessons learned from the last decade of progress to deliver transformative change for the benefit of nature and people, to realize the 2050 Vision for biodiversity.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity have developed the Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 Country Dossiers, which provide countries with an overview of the status of Target 11 elements, opportunities for action, and a summary of commitments made by Parties over the last decade. Each dossier can support countries in assessing their progress on key elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 and identifying opportunities to prioritize new protected areas and OECMs.

This dossier provides an overview of area-based conservation in Fiji. Section I of the dossier presents data on the current status of Fiji’s PAs and OECMs. The data presented in Section I relates to each element of Target 11. Section I also presents the PA and OECM coverage for two critical ecosystem services: water security and carbon stocks. In addition, the dossier presents potential opportunities for action for Fiji, in relation to each Target 11 element. The analyses present options for improving Fiji’s area-based conservation network to achieve enhanced protection and benefits for livelihoods and climate change. Section II presents details on Fiji’s existing PA and OECM commitments as a summary of existing efforts towards achieving Target 11. This gives focus not only to national policy and actions but also voluntary commitments to the UN. Furthermore, where data is

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available, this dossier provides information on potential OECMs, Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs; also, often referred to as territories and areas conserved by Indigenous peoples and local communities or “territories of life”) and Privately Protected Areas (PPAs) and the potential contribution they will have in achieving the post-2020 targets.

The information on PAs and OECMs presented here is derived from the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) and World Database on Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measures (WD-OECM). These databases are joint products of UNEP and IUCN, managed by UNEP-WCMC, and can be viewed and downloaded at www.protectedplanet.net. Parties are encouraged to provide data on their PAs and OECMs to UNEP-WCMC for incorporation into the databases (see e.g., Decisions 10/31 and 14/8). The significant efforts of Parties in updating their data in the build up to the publication of the Protected Planet Report 2020 (UNEP-WCMC and IUCN, 2021) were greatly appreciated. UNEP-WCMC welcomes further updates, following the data standards described here (www.wcmc.io/WDPA_Manual), and these should be directed to protectedareas@unep-wcmc.org. The statistics presented in this dossier are derived from the May 2021 WDPA and WD-OECM releases, unless explicitly stated otherwise. Readers should consult www.protectedplanet.net for the latest coverage statistics (updated monthly).

Some data from the WDPA and WD-OECM are not made publicly available at the request of the data-provider. This affects some statistics, maps, and figures presented in this dossier. Statistics provided by UNEP-WCMC (terrestrial and marine coverage) are based upon the full dataset, including restricted data. All other statistics, maps, and figures are based upon the subset of the data that is publicly available.

Where data is less readily available, such as for potential OECMs, ICCAs and PPAs, data has also been compiled from published reports and scientific literature to provide greater awareness of these less commonly recorded aspects. These data are provided to highlight the need for comprehensive reporting on these areas to the WDPA and/or WD-OECM. Parties are invited to work with indigenous peoples, local communities and private actors to submit data under the governance of these actors, with their consent, to the WDPA and/or WD-OECM.

Overall, PAs and OECMs are essential instruments for biodiversity conservation and to sustain essential ecosystem services that support human well-being and sustainable development, including food, medicine, and water security, as well as climate change mitigation and adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The data in this dossier, therefore, aims to celebrate the current contributions of PAs and OECMs, whilst the gaps presented hope to encourage greater progress, not just for the benefit of biodiversity and the post-2020 GBF, but also to recognize the essential role of PAs and OECMs to the Sustainable Development Goals and for addressing the climate crisis.



SECTION I: CURRENT STATUS

Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 refers to both protected areas (PAs) and other effective area-based conservation measures (OECMs). This section provides the current status for all elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 where indicators with global data are available. Statistics for all elements are presented using data on both PAs and OECMs (where this data is available and reported in global databases like the WDPA and WD-OECM). It is recognized that statistics reported in the WPDA and WD-OECM might differ from those reported officially by countries due to differences in methodologies and datasets used to assess protected area coverage and differences in the base maps used to measure terrestrial and marine area of a country or territory. Details on UNEP-WCMC's methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage area available [here](#). The global indicators adopted here for presenting the status of other elements of Target 11 may also differ from those in use nationally



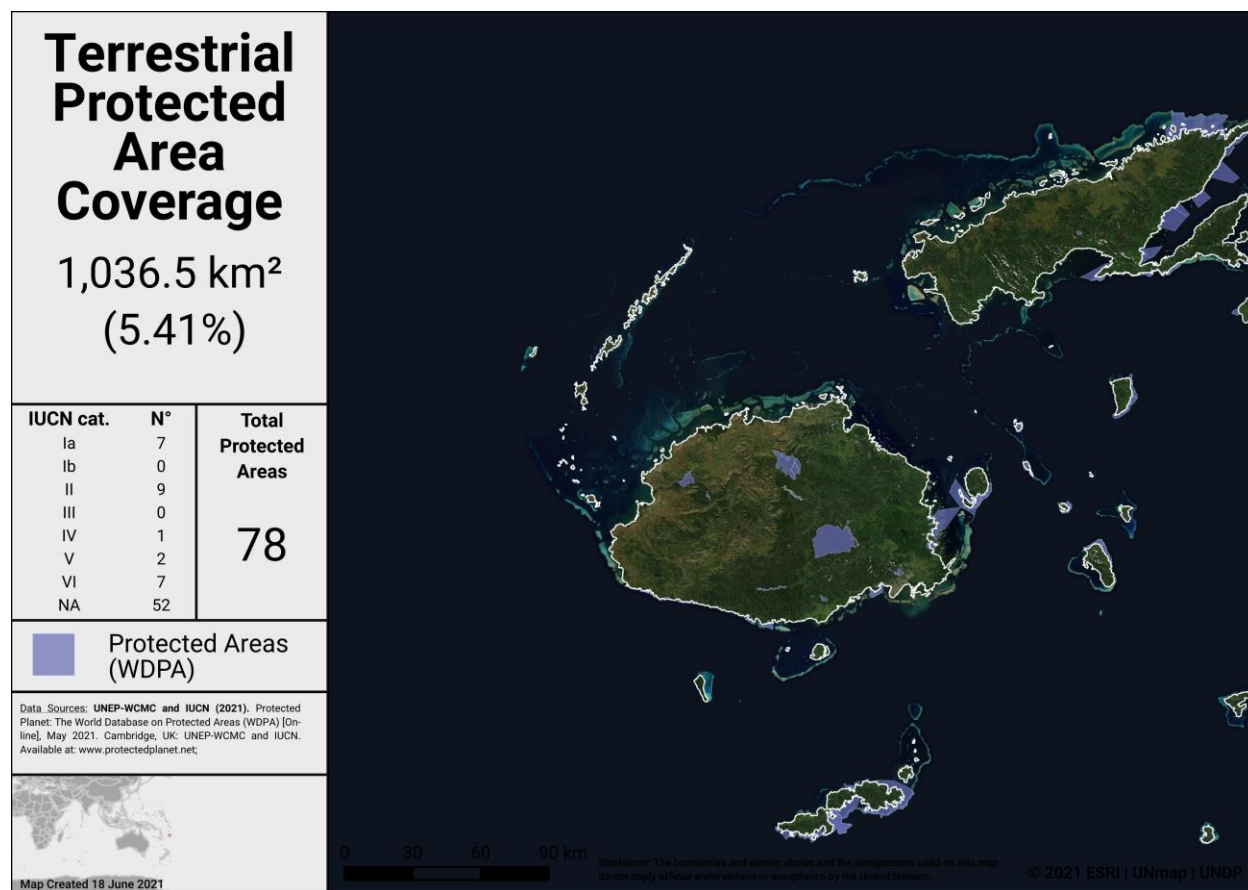
COVERAGE - TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

As of May 2021, Fiji has **146** protected areas reported in the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA). 1 PA that is proposed and another 10 PAs that have no spatial boundary and no area listed in the WDPA, are not included in the following statistics (see details on UNWP-WCMC’s methods for calculating PA and OECM coverage [here](#)).

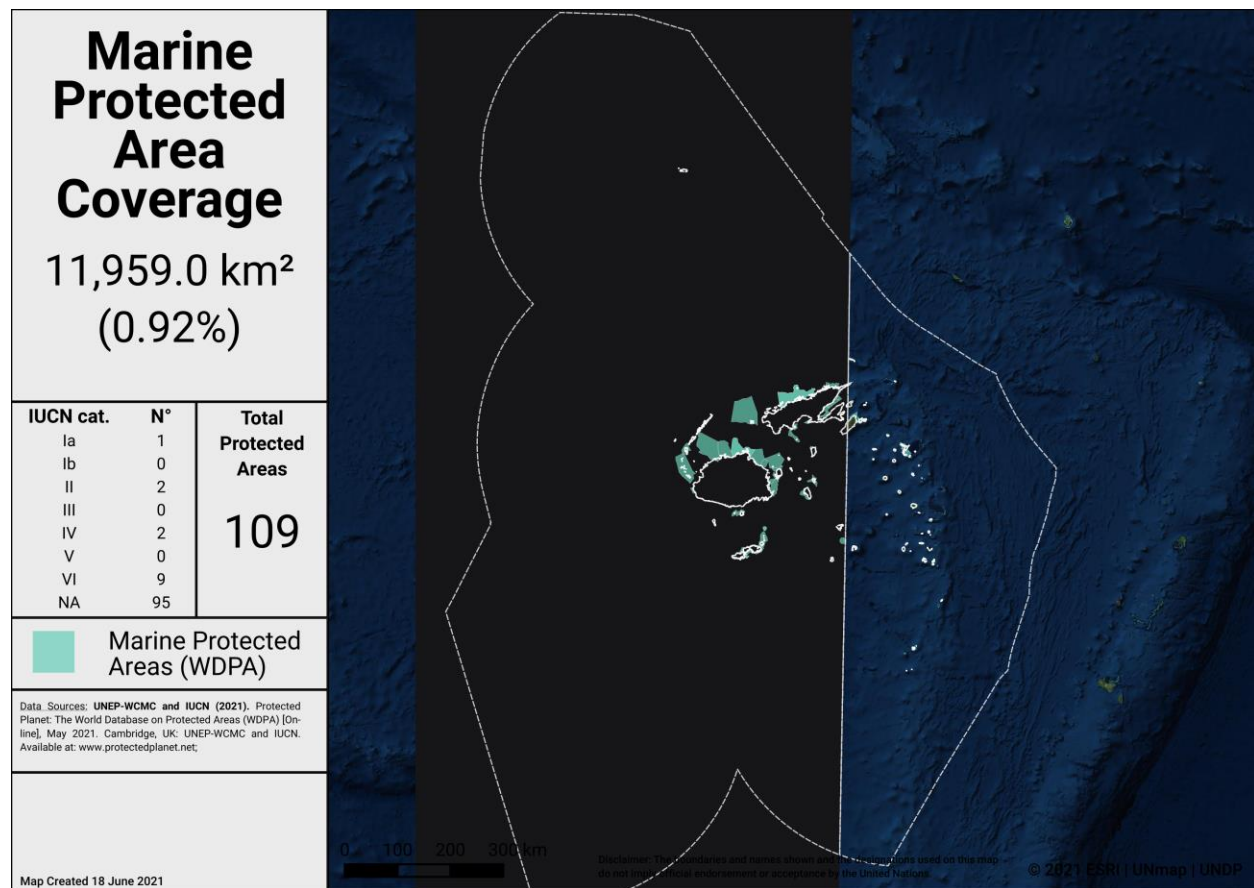
As of May 2021, Fiji has **0** OECMs reported in the world database on OECMs (WD-OECM).

Current coverage for Fiji:

- 5.4% terrestrial (78 protected areas, 1,036.5 km²)
- 0.9% marine (109 protected areas, 11,959.0 km²)



Terrestrial Protected Areas in Fiji



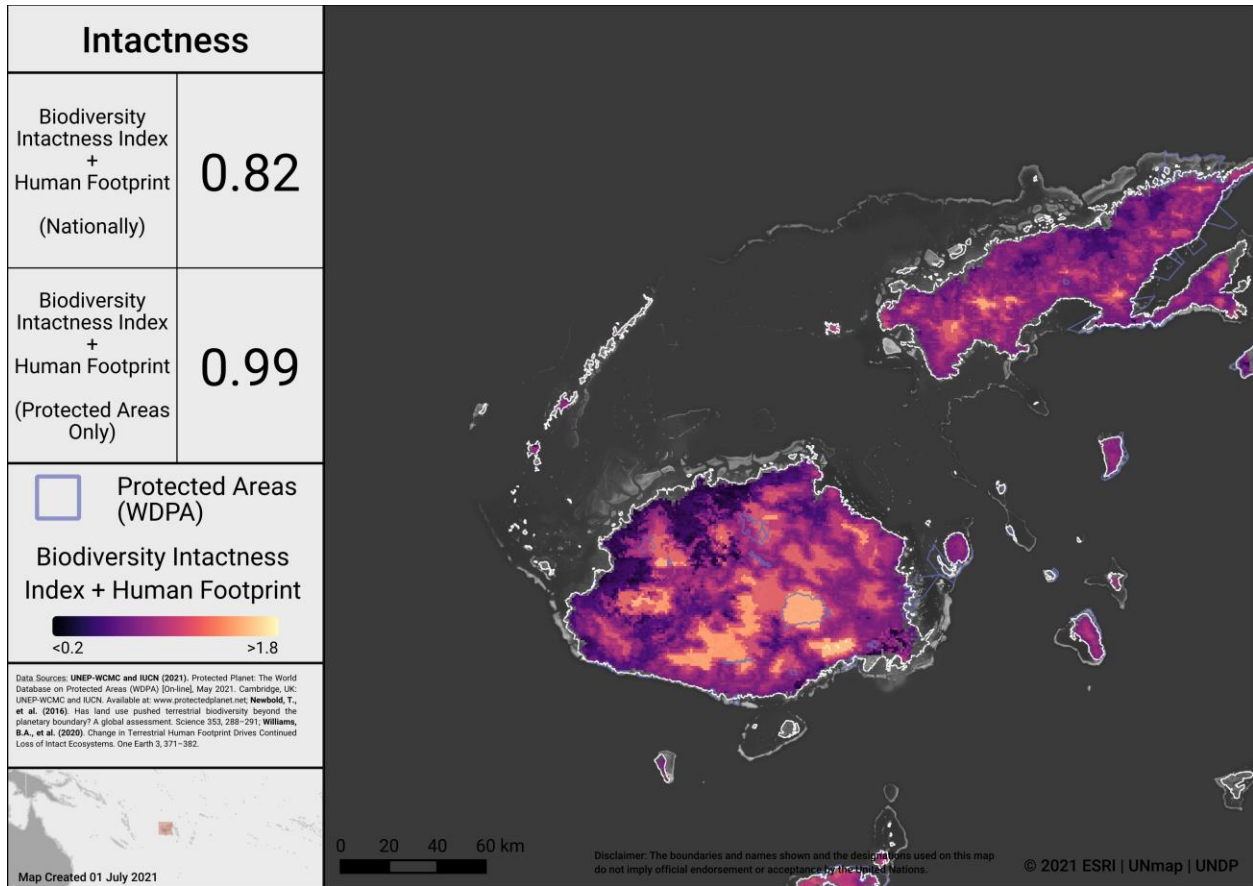
Marine Protected Areas in Fiji

Potential OECMs

There are currently no potential OECM examples available for Fiji.

Opportunities for action

Opportunities for the near-term include updating the WDPA with any unreported PAs, and the recognizing and reporting OECMs to the WD-OECM. In the future, as Fiji considers where to add new PAs and OECMs, the map below identifies areas in Fiji where intact terrestrial areas are not currently protected. Focus on relatively intact areas, while addressing the elements in the following sections, could be considered when planning new PAs or OECMs.



Intactness in Fiji

To explore more on intactness visit the UN Biodiversity Lab: map.unbiodiversitylab.org.

ECOLOGICAL REPRESENTATIVENESS – TERRESTRIAL & MARINE

Ecological representativeness is assessed based on the PAs and OECMs coverage of broad-scale biogeographic units. Globally, ecoregions have been described for terrestrial areas (Dinerstein et al, 2017), marine coastal and shelf ecosystems (to a depth of 200m; Spalding et al 2007) and surface pelagic waters (Spalding et al 2012).

Fiji has 2 **terrestrial** ecoregions. Out of these:

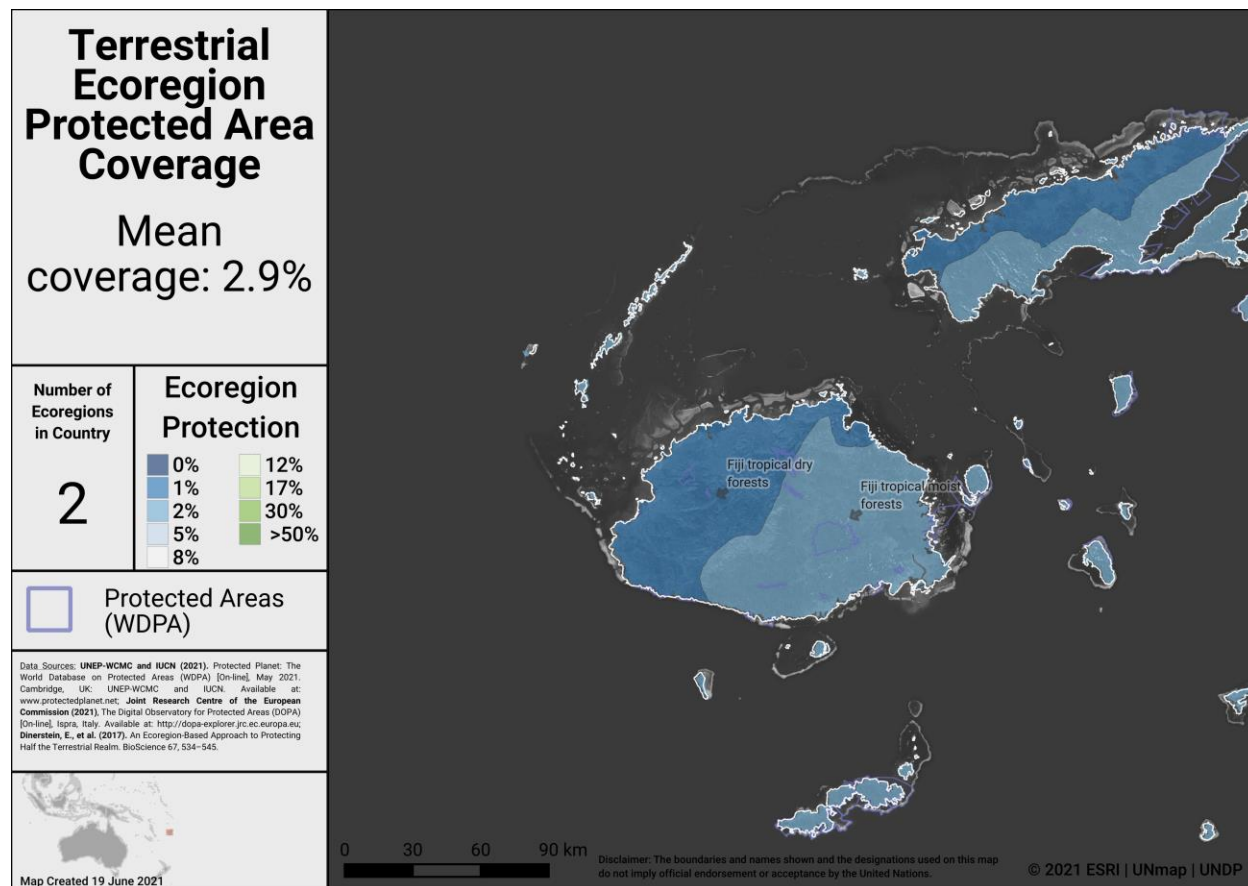
- All 2 ecoregions have at least some coverage from PAs and OECMs.
- 0 ecoregions have at least 17% protected within the country.
- The average coverage of terrestrial ecoregions is 2.9%.

Fiji has 3 **marine** ecoregions and 1 **pelagic province**. Out of these:

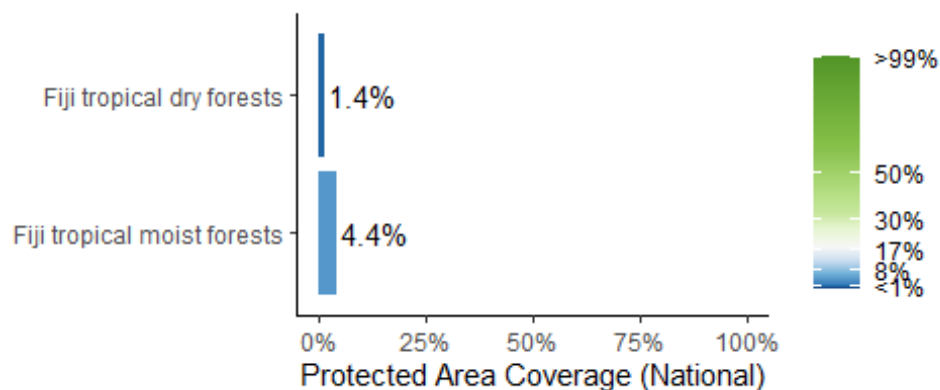
- 1 marine ecoregion and 1 pelagic province have at least some coverage from reported PAs and OECMs.
- 1 marine ecoregion and 0 pelagic province have at least 10% protected within Fiji's exclusive economic zone (EEZ).
- The average coverage of marine ecoregions is 7.1% and the coverage of the pelagic province is <0.1%.

A full list of terrestrial ecoregions in Fiji is available in Annex I.



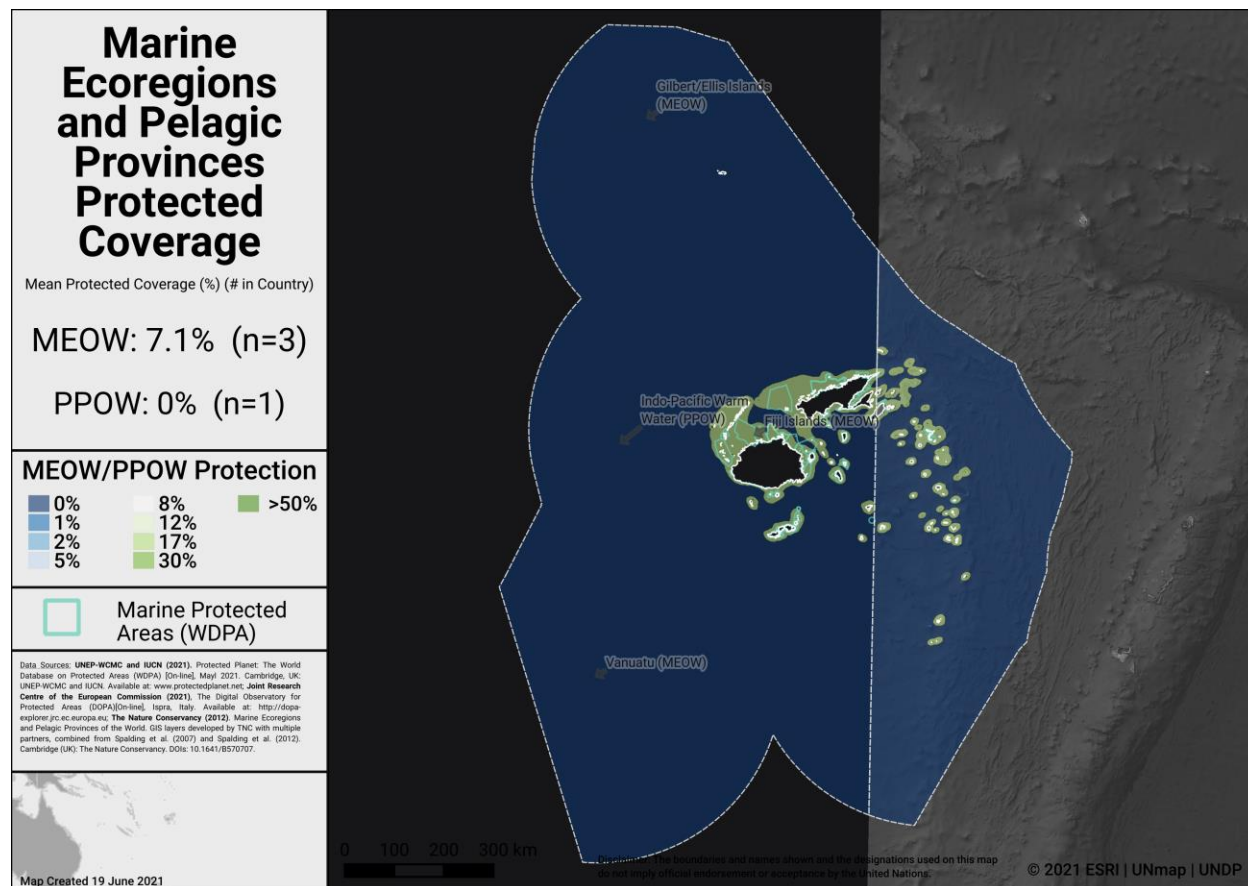


Terrestrial ecoregions in Fiji

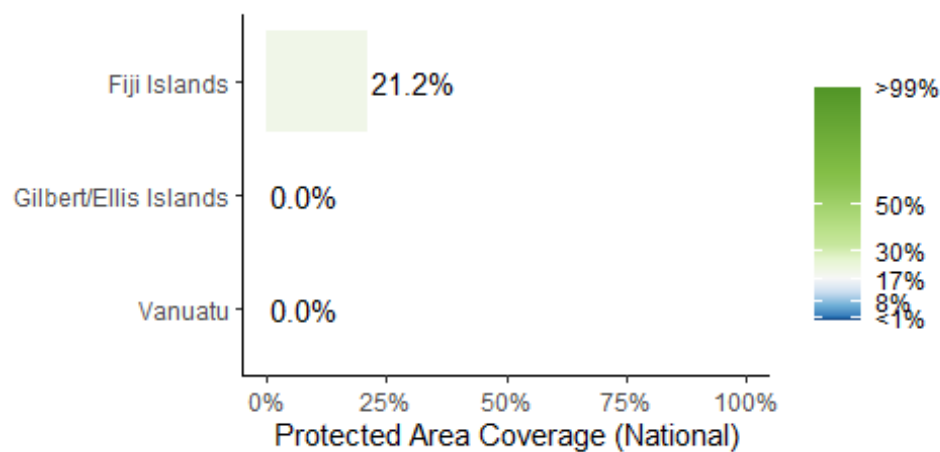


Terrestrial ecoregions of the World (TEOW) in Fiji

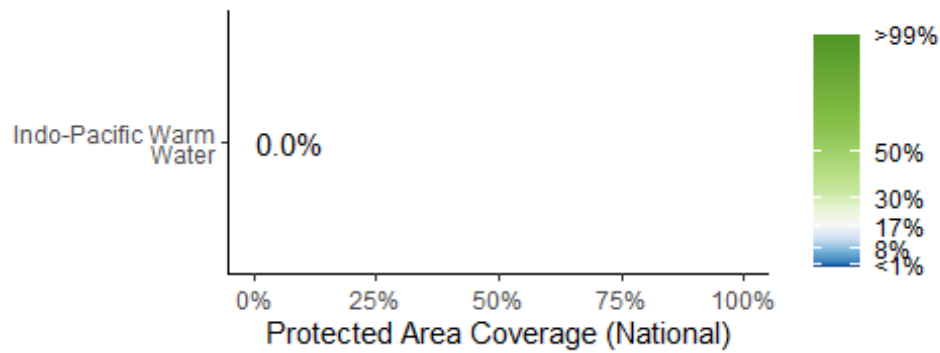




Marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces



Marine Ecoregions of the World (MEOW) in Fiji



Pelagic Provinces of the World (PPOW) in Fiji

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Fiji to increase protection in terrestrial and marine ecoregions and pelagic provinces that have lower levels of coverage by PAs or OECMs. Ecoregions which currently have no coverage by PAs or OECMs are key areas for action.

AREAS IMPORTANT FOR BIODIVERSITY

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Protected area and OECM coverage of Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) provide one proxy for assessing the conservation of areas important for biodiversity at national, regional and global scales. KBAs are sites that make significant contributions to the global persistence of biodiversity (IUCN, 2016). The KBA concept builds on four decades of efforts to identify important sites for biodiversity, including Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas, Alliance for Zero Extinction sites, and KBAs identified through Hotspot ecosystem profiles supported by the Critical Ecosystem Partnership Fund. Incorporating these sites, the dataset of internationally significant KBAs includes Global KBAs (sites shown to meet one or more of 11 criteria in the Global Standard for the Identification of KBAs, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and irreplaceability), Regional KBAs (sites identified using pre-existing criteria and thresholds, that do not meet the Global KBA criteria based on existing information), and KBAs whose Global/Regional status is Not yet determined, but which will be assessed against the global KBA criteria within 8-12 years. Regional KBAs are often of critical international policy relevance (e.g., in EU legislation and under the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands), and many are likely to qualify as Global KBAs in future once assessed for their biodiversity importance for other taxonomic groups and ecosystems. To date, nearly 16,000 KBAs have identified globally, and information on each of these is presented in the World Database of Key Biodiversity Areas: www.keybiodiversityareas.org.

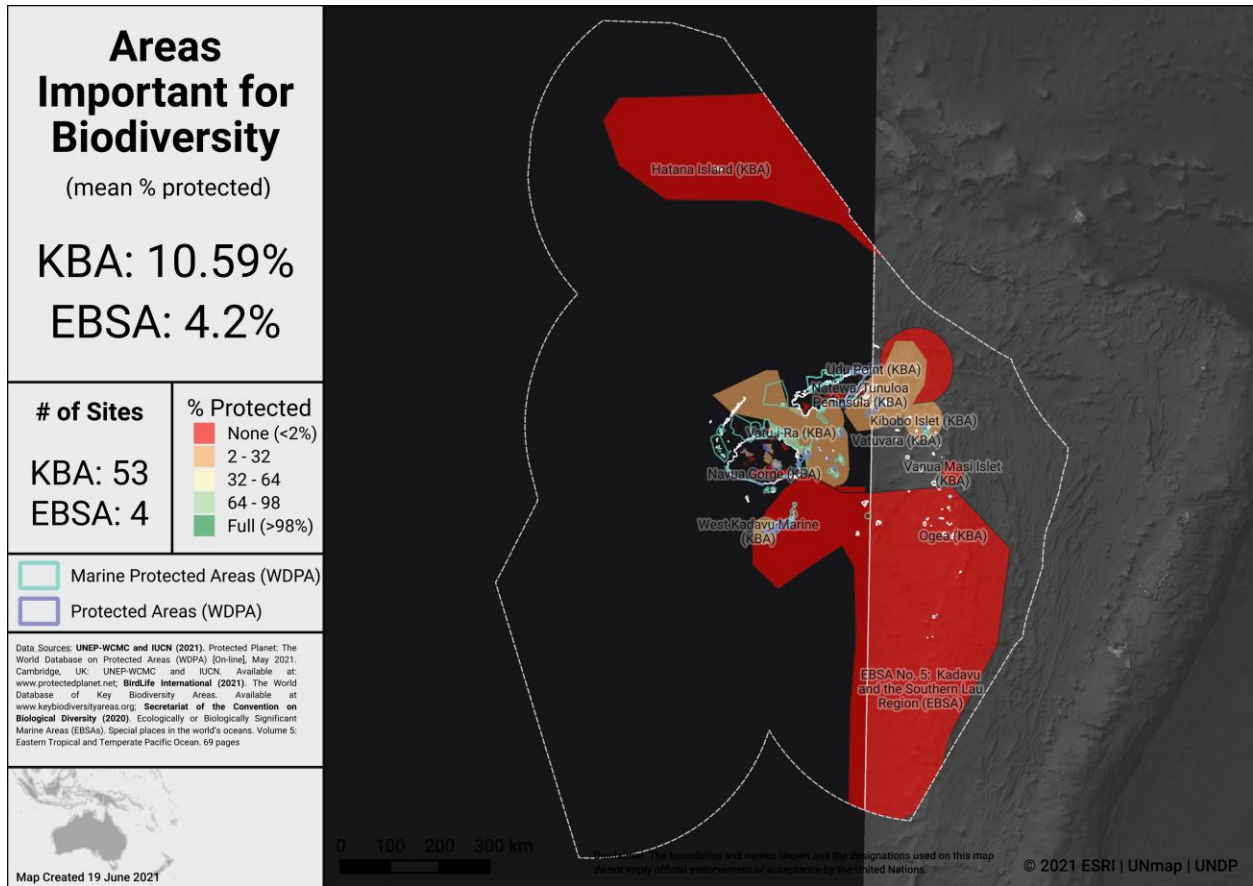
Fiji has 53 Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) [**51 KBAs** included in analysis]

- Mean percent coverage of all KBAs by PAs and OECMs in Fiji is **10.6%**.
- **1** KBA has full (>98%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **17** KBAs have partial coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- **33** KBAs have no (<2%) coverage by PAs and OECMs.
- *2 KBAs lack spatial data to allow PA and OECM coverage to be determined*

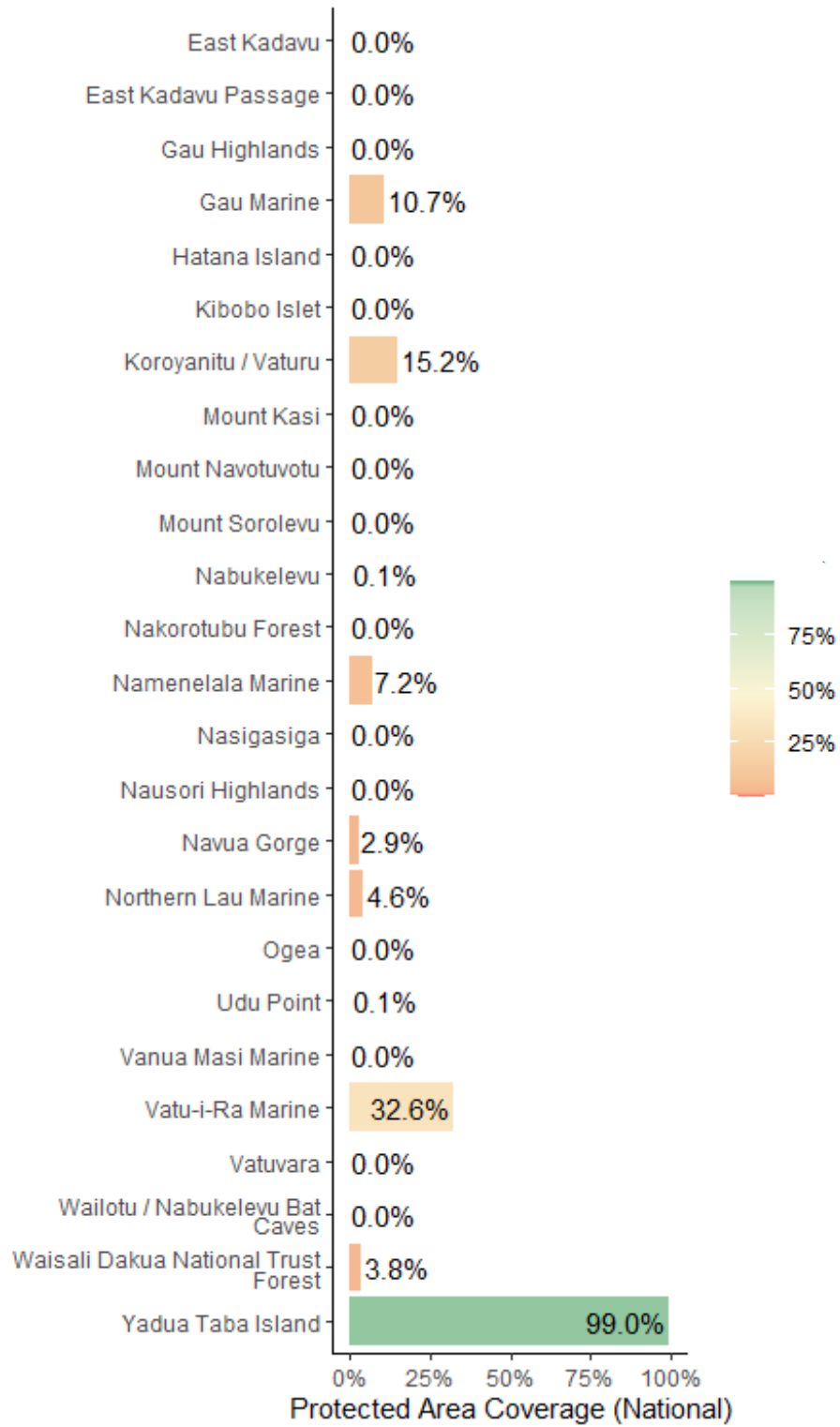
Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs)

Other important areas for biodiversity may also include Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs), which were identified following the scientific criteria adopted at COP-9 (Decision IX/20; see more at: <https://www.cbd.int/ebsa/>). Sites that meet the EBSA criteria may require enhanced conservation and management measures; this could be achieved through means including MPAs, OECMs, marine spatial planning, and impact assessment.

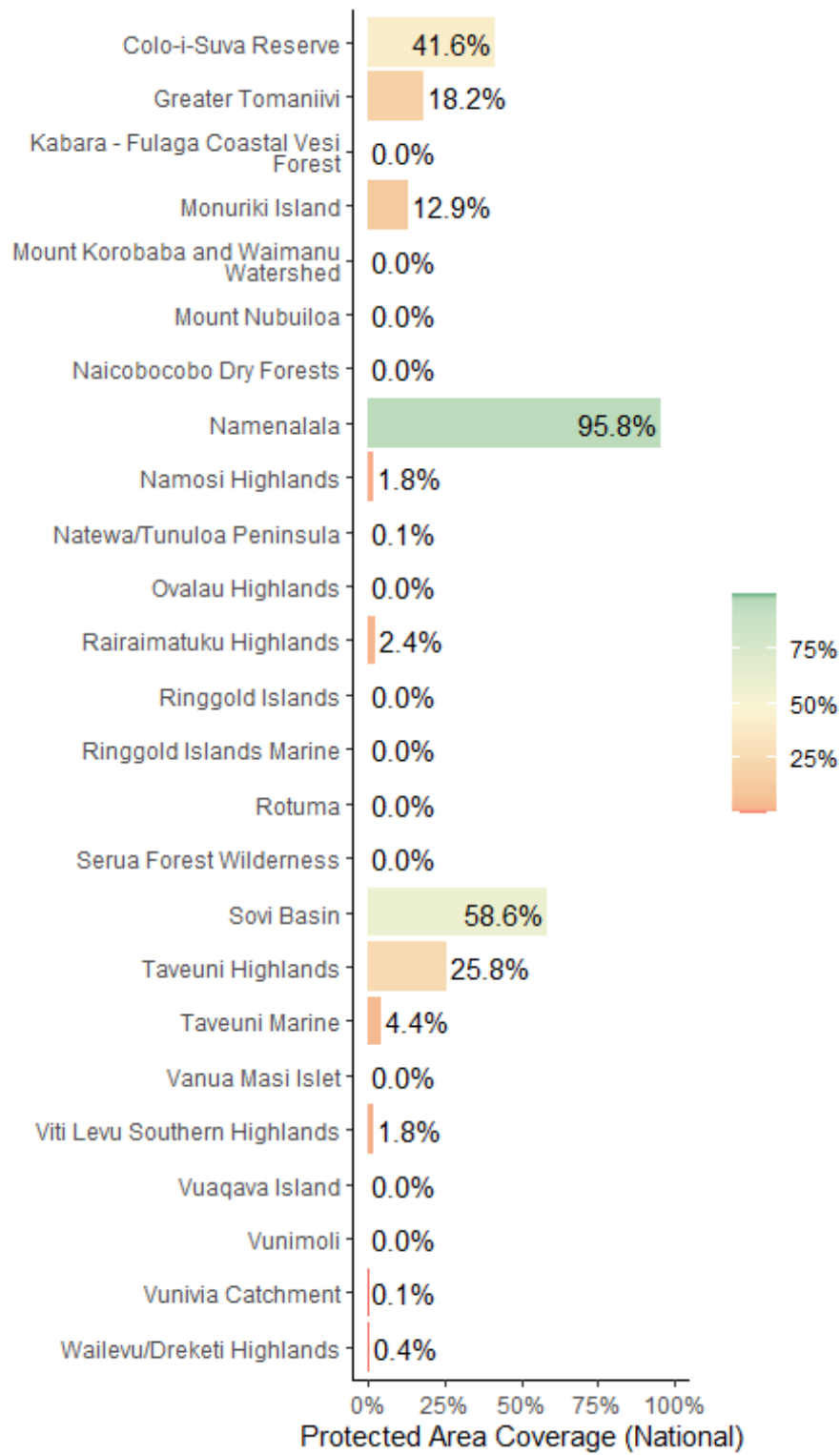
There are 4 EBSAs with some portion of their extent within Fiji's EEZ, of which 1 EBSA has no coverage from PAs or OECMs.



Areas Important for Biodiversity in Fiji

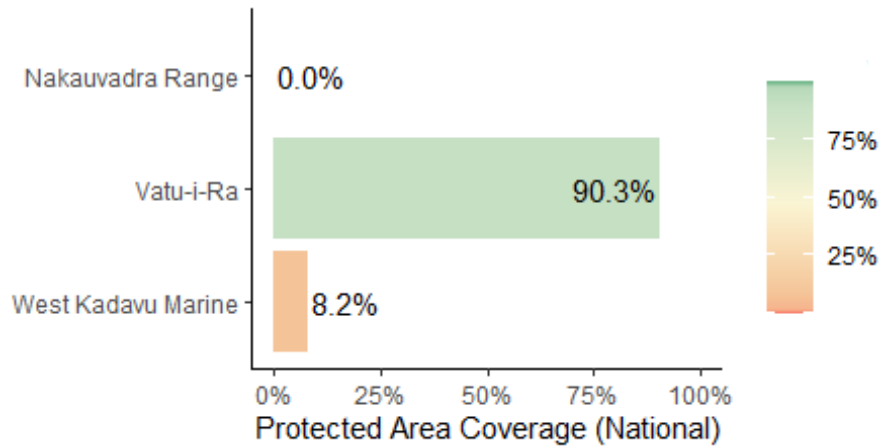


Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Fiji

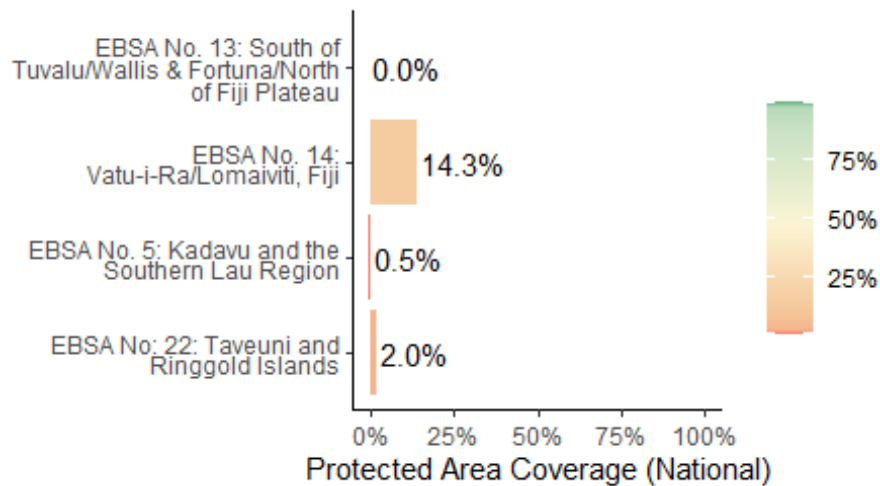


Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Fiji (continued)





Key Biodiversity Area Coverage (KBA) in Fiji (continued)



Ecologically or Biologically Significant Marine Areas (EBSAs) in Fiji

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for Fiji to increase protection of KBAs that have lower levels of coverage by PAs and OECMs; priority could be given to those with no current coverage.



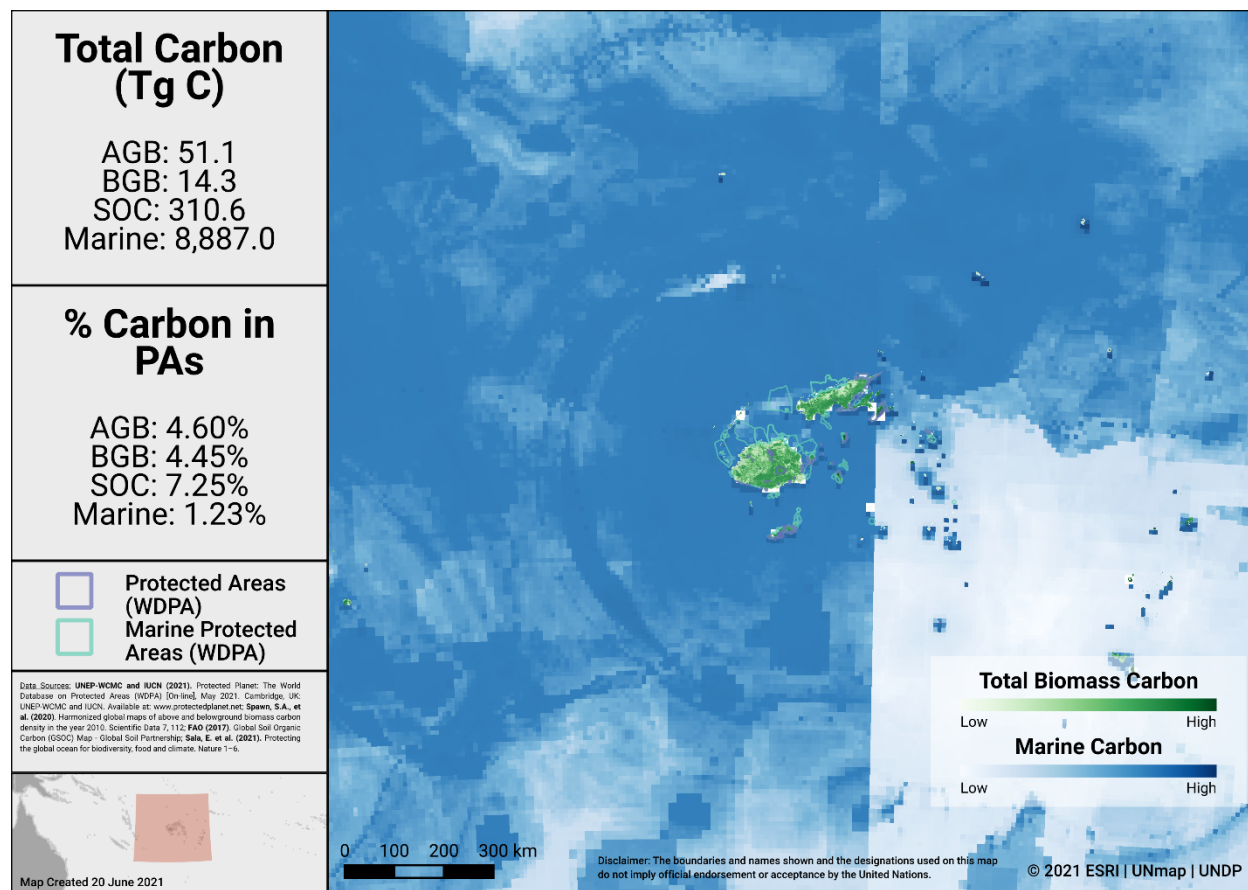
AREAS IMPORTANT FOR ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

There is no single indicator identified for assessing the conservation of areas important for ecosystem services. For simplicity, two services with available global datasets are assessed here (carbon and water). In future, other critical ecosystem services could be explored.

Carbon

Data for biomass carbon comes from temporally consistent and harmonized global maps of aboveground biomass and belowground biomass carbon density (at a 300-m spatial resolution); the maps integrate land-cover specific, remotely sensed data, and land-cover specific empirical models (see Spawn et al., 2020 for details on methodology). The Global Soil Organic Carbon Map present an estimation of SOC stock from 0 to 30 cm (see FAO, 2017). Data is also presented from global maps of marine sedimentary carbon stocks, standardized to a 1-meter depth (see Sala et al., 2021, and Atwood et al., 2020).

The map below presents the total carbon stocks in Fiji and the percent of carbon in protected areas. The total carbon stocks is 51.1 Tg C from aboveground biomass (AGB), with 4.6% in protected areas; 14.3 Tg C from below ground biomass (BGB), with 4.5% in protected areas; 310.6 Tg C from soil organic carbon (SOC), with 7.3% in protected areas; and 8,887.0 Tg C from marine sediment carbon, with 1.2% in protected areas.



Carbon Stocks in Fiji

Water

Forests and intact ecosystems support stormwater management and clean water availability, especially for large urban populations. Research that has examined the role of forests for city drinking water supplies shows that of the world's 105 largest cities, more than 30% (33 cities) rely heavily on the local protected forests, which provide ecosystem services that underpin local drinking water availability and quality (Dudley & Stolton, 2003).

Drinking water supplies for cities in Fiji may similarly depend on protected forest areas within and around water catchments. Intact catchments can support more consistent water supply and improved water quality.

Opportunities for action

For carbon, there is opportunity for Fiji to increase PA and OECM coverage in both marine and terrestrial areas with high carbon stocks, as identified in the map above. Protecting areas with high carbon stocks secures the benefits of carbon sequestration in the area.

For water, there is opportunity to increase the area of the water catchment under protection by PAs and OECMs, or in cases where there is high levels of protection, focus on effective management for these areas. Protecting the current area of forested land and potentially reforesting would have benefits for improving water security.



CONNECTIVITY & INTEGRATION

Two global indicators, the Protected Connected land indicator (ProtConn; EC-JRC, 2021; Saura et al., 2018) and the PARC-Connectedness indicator (CSIRO, 2019), have been proposed for assessing the terrestrial connectivity of PA and OECM networks. To date there is no global indicator for assessing marine connectivity, though some recent developments include proposed guidance for the treatment of connectivity in the planning and management of MPAs (see Lausche et al., 2021).

Protected Connected Land Indicator (Prot-Conn)

As of January 2021, as reported in the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission's Digital Observatory for Protected Areas (DOPA) (JRC, 2021), the coverage of protected-connected lands (a measure of the connectivity of terrestrial protected area networks, assessed using the ProtConn indicator) in Fiji was 3.0%.

PARC-Connectedness Index

In 2019, as assessed using the PARC-Connectedness Index (values ranging from 0-1, indicating low to high connectivity), connectivity in Fiji is 0.23. This represents no change from 2010.

Corridor case studies

There are no corridor case studies available for Fiji (but see general details on conserving connectivity through ecological networks and corridors in Hilty et al 2020).

Opportunities for action

There is opportunity for a general increase of PA or OECM coverage and to focus on PA and OECM management for enhancing and maintaining connectivity. Improving connectivity increases the effectiveness of PAs and OECMs and reduces the impacts of fragmentation.

As well, a range of suggested steps for enhancing and supporting integration are included in the voluntary guidance on the integration of PAs and OECMs into the wider land- and seascapes and mainstreaming across sectors to contribute, inter alia, to the SDGs (Annex I of COP Decision 14/8).



GOVERNANCE DIVERSITY

There is a lack of comprehensive global data on governance quality and equity in PAs and OECMs. Here, we provide data on the diversity of governance types for reported PAs and OECMs.

As of May 2021, PAs in Fiji reported in the WDPA have the following governance types:

- 11.0% are governed by **governments**
 - 9.6% by federal or national ministry or agency
 - 1.4% by sub-national ministry or agency
 - 0.0% by government-delegated management
- 0.7% are under **shared** governance (by collaborative governance)
- 2.1% are under **private** governance (by for-profit organisations)
- 72.6% are under **IPLC** governance
 - 71.9% by Indigenous Peoples
 - 0.7% by local communities
- 13.7% **do not** report a governance type

OECMs

As of May 2021, there are **0** OECMs in Fiji reported in the WD-OECM, therefore there is no data available on OECM governance types.

Privately Protected Areas (PPAs)

From Gloss et al. (2019), a UNDP study on PPA data for Fiji:

- PPAs **are not** formally defined in PA legislation (however, there are several mechanisms that allow for a private entity to manage land for conservation)
- PPAs **are not** directly identified in Fiji's recent NBSAP.
- PPAs **are not** included as part of a current PPA network (though several sites under governance by for-profit organizations, including the Fiji Electricity Authority and Rivers Fiji, are currently included in the WDPA).

See full details in Fiji's [country profile](#) and summarized in Annex II.

Territories and areas conserved by Indigenous Peoples and local communities (ICCAs)

From Kothari et al. (2012), potential ICCAs (or similar designations) in Fiji include:

- 14 terrestrial ICCAs, covering 380 km²
 - *[As of 2021, there are no 'ICCAs' listed in the WDPA; reported IPLC-governed sites in the WDPA include a Recreational Reserve, Ramsar site, Heritage Park and >100 LMMAs]*



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- 150 LMMAs, covering 17,700 km² (in 2011)
 - The area under LMMAs (in 2011) covered >50% of inshore marine area, and 10% of territorial waters
 - [As of 2021, there are 103 LMMAs reported in the WDPA, with an area ~12,000km²]

Examples of ICCAs in Fiji include the *Natewa Tunuloa Peninsula* (part of the island of Vanua Levu, identified as an IBA and KBA, with forests identified as a Site of National Significance in the National Biodiversity Action Plan; where sustainably managing forest resources is also crucial to retaining water quality and reserves, the provision of food resources and lowering flooding risks) and *Vueti Navakavu* (an LMMA located on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu, which is managed by the seven sub-clans (*mataqali*) that inhabit the village communities and form the Yavusa Navakavu clan). See full case study details in the [ICCA Registry](#).

Other Indigenous lands

There is currently no data available on the total area of lands managed and/or controlled by Indigenous Peoples in Fiji (see details of analysis in Garnett et al. 2018).

Opportunities for action

Increase efforts to identify the governance types for the 13.7% of sites that do not have their governance type reported.

There is also opportunity for Fiji to complete governance and equity assessments, to establish baselines, and identify relevant actions for improvement. Examples of existing tools and methodologies include: Governance Assessment for Protected and Conserved Areas (Franks & Brooker, 2018), Social Assessment of Protected Areas (Franks et al 2018), and Site-level assessment of governance and equity (IIED, 2020). As well, a range of suggested actions are included in the voluntary guidance on effective governance models for management of protected areas, including equity (Annex II of COP Decision 14/8).



Equator Prize Projects

The Equator Initiative brings together the United Nations, governments, civil society, businesses and grassroots organizations to recognize and advance local sustainable development solutions for people, nature and resilient communities.

The Equator Prize projects provide examples of unique and locally based governance of natural resources. Fiji has the following Equator Prize winners that showcase examples of local, sustainable community action:

Organization	Year	Project Description
Matabose E Qarava Na Veika Vakai- Qoliqoli E Viti (Fiji Locally-Managed Marine Area Network)	2002	<p>The community of Ucunivanua on the eastern coast of Fiji's largest island was the site of the first locally managed marine area (LMMA) in Fiji in 1997. Scientists from the University of the South Pacific supported environmentalists and local villagers in declaring a ban on harvesting within a stretch of inshore waters for three years, building on the tradition of taboo prohibitions for certain species. After seven years of local management, the clam populations had rebounded and village incomes had risen significantly with increased harvests.</p> <p>The success of the Ucunivanua LMMA spread rapidly, and a support network – Matabose E Qarava Na Veika Vakai- Qoliqoli E Viti, Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network – grew from this. By 2009, the network had increased to include some 250 LMMAs, covering some 10,745 square kilometres of coastal fisheries, or more than 25% of Fiji's inshore area. The network has also inspired replication in countries across the Pacific.</p>
Sisi Initiative Site Support Group	2012	<p>Fiji's Sisi Initiative manages natural resources around the periphery of the Natewa Tunuloa Important Bird Area. The organization has established a 600-hectare community protected forest and developed alternative livelihood options for the area's Indigenous landowners. Developed in response to illegal logging, forest fires, overgrazing, agricultural encroachment and invasive alien species, the organization uses an innovative incentive scheme to protect the globally important bird and wildlife species in Natewa Tunuloa.</p> <p>Communities sign a Memorandum of Understanding in which they agree to protect the community forest and refuse logging concessions. In return, the initiative provides alternative livelihood training and projects in beekeeping, poultry, handicraft and jewelry-making, bakery and pastry-making, and sustainable agricultural. The group's model farm and tree nursery also help to reduce deforestation. The initiative has been used as a learning model for community-based conservation and forest management across Fiji.</p>



Photo from Equator Prize Project: Matabose E Qarava Na Veika Vakai- Qoliqoli E Viti (Fiji Locally-Managed Marine Area Network)

PROTECTED AREA MANAGEMENT EFFECTIVENESS

This section provides information on the coverage of PAs and OECMs with completed protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments as reported in the global database (GD-PAME). The proportion of terrestrial and marine PAs with completed PAME assessments is also calculated and compared with the 60% target agreed to in COP-10 Decision X/31. Information is also included regarding changes in forest cover nationally within PAs and OECMs.

Protected area management effectiveness (PAME) assessments

As of May 2021, Fiji has 146 PAs reported in the WDPA; of these PAs, 2 (1.4%) have management effectiveness evaluations reported in the global database on protected area management effectiveness (GD-PAME).

- 0.1% (11 km²) of the terrestrial area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
 - 1.1% of the area of terrestrial PAs have completed evaluations.
- 0.0% (111 km²) of the marine area of the country is covered by PAs with completed management effectiveness evaluations.
 - 0.9% of the area of marine PAs have completed evaluations.

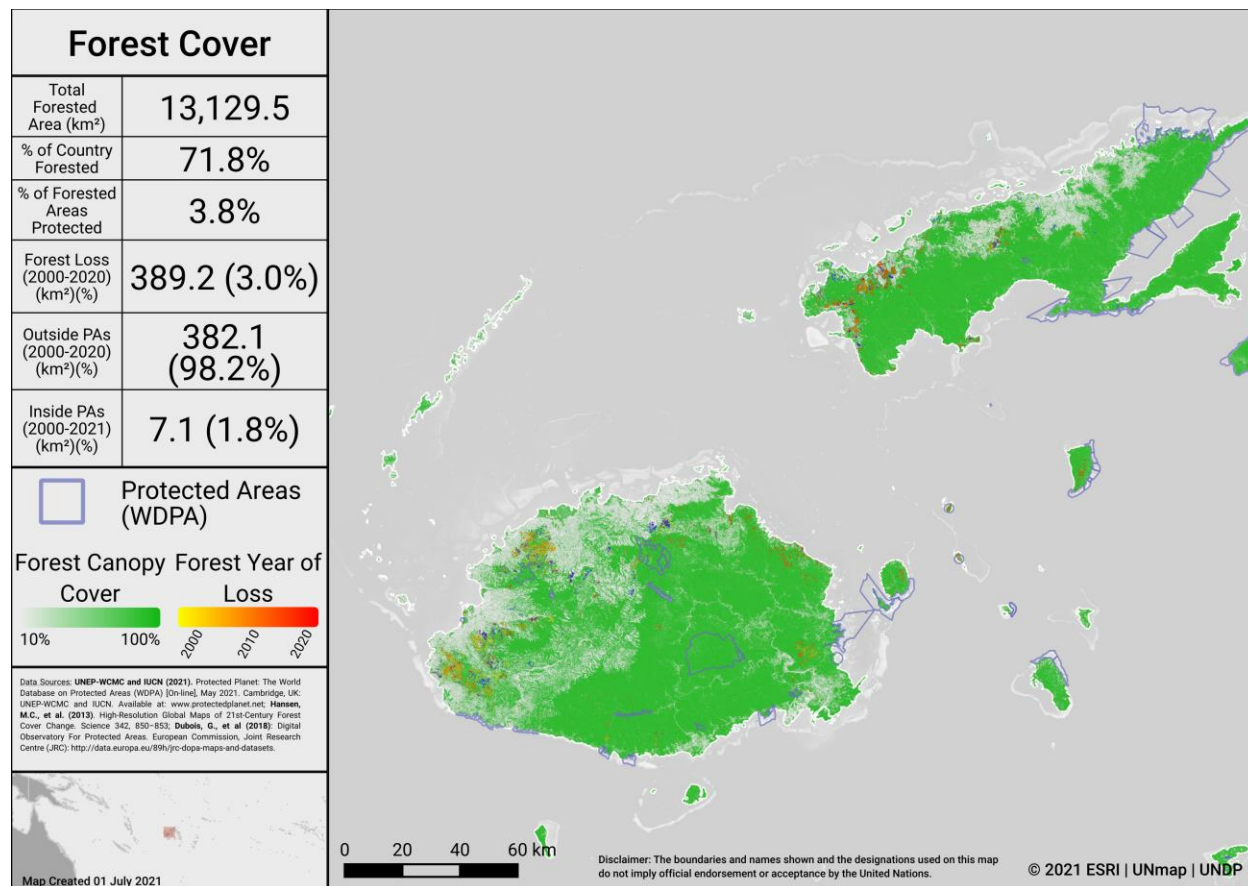
The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs and **has not** been met for marine PAs.

As of May 2021, there are 0 OECMs in Fiji reported in the WD-OECM and no information available on the management effectiveness of potential OECMs.

Changes in forest cover in protected areas and OECMs

Forested areas in Fiji cover approximately 71.8% of the country, an area of 13,129.5 km². Approximately 3.8% (494.4 km²) of this is within the protected area estate of Fiji. Over the period 2000-2020 loss of forest cover amounted to over 389.2 km², or 2.1% of the country (3.0% of forest area), of which 7.1 km² (1.8% of forest loss) occurred within protected areas. The map below shows how forest cover has changed in Fiji from 2000-2020 both inside and outside of PAs. This can indicate how effective PAs are in reducing forest cover loss.





Forest Cover and Forest Loss in Fiji

Opportunities for action

The 60% target for completed management effectiveness assessments (per COP Decision X/31) **has not** been met for terrestrial PAs and **has not** been met for marine PAs. Therefore, there is opportunity to increase protected area management effectiveness (PAME) evaluations for both terrestrial and marine PAs to achieve the target.

There is also opportunity to implement the results of completed PAME evaluations, to improve the quality of management for existing PAs and OECMs (e.g. through adaptive management and information sharing, increasing the number of sites reporting ‘sound management’) and to increase reporting of biodiversity outcomes in PAs and OECMs.

SECTION II: EXISTING PROTECTED AREA AND OECM COMMITMENTS

PRIORITY ACTIONS FROM 2015-2016 REGIONAL WORKSHOPS

National priority actions for Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 were provided by Parties following a series of regional workshops in 2015 and 2016. The Capacity-building workshop for Pacific on achieving Aichi Biodiversity Targets 11 and 12 took place 11 - 13 July 2016 in Nadi, Fiji. Progress towards the quantitative targets for marine and terrestrial coverage has been assessed based on data reported in the WDPA and WD-OECM as of 2021. For more information, see the workshop report at: <https://www.cbd.int/meetings/>

The following actions were identified during the workshops:

Terrestrial coverage:

- 1) Policy & Legislations (legal review) for Protected Areas (Cabinet policy update; Legislation review for both terrestrial and marine to be complete).
- 2) Develop typology for terrestrial PA.
- 3) Document process/procedure needed to declare PA.

Marine coverage:

- 1) Consolidation and updating of marine priority and protected areas.
- 2) Process in place to declare 2 -3 offshore marine protected areas (Offshore Fisheries Management Decree), in the Vatu-i-ra Seascape, Lau seascape and Great Sea Reef. Fisheries Department formally gazetted shark reefs and is looking at 4 more to be gazette under Section 9 of the Fisheries Act [see also UN Ocean Actions, below]

Ecological representation:

- 1) Consultant to review list, verify validity.
- 2) Terrestrial National Typology workshop.
- 3) Finalization of Marine Priority maps.
- 4) Cabinet approval for map of priority PA site for both terrestrial and marine.
- 5) Eco-regional integrated planning.

Areas Important for biodiversity and ecosystem services: Same actions as for Ecological representation; also Review of NBSAP; and Review of Ecological, Biological Significant Areas.

Connectivity: Incorporate principles of connectivity into marine PA prioritization.



Management effectiveness:

- 1) Replication of METT to other small sites.
- 2) Implementation of GEF-6 (for which Marine & Terrestrial Monitoring framework have been incorporated).

Governance and Equity:

- 1) National workshop for Govt. Department (Lands, Minerals, Agriculture, Town & Country Planning, Health, Education etc.) to acknowledge and Approval priority sites of PA for both terrestrial and marine.
- 2) Endorsement by Protected Area Committee / Government for recommendation to NEC and Cabinet/
- 3) Assessment of the Sovi Basin Trust Fund Instruments for opportunities to host financing for other PA.
- 4) Costing of the NBSAP to understand how much money is need to meet Aichi Target 11 & 12.

Integration:

- 1) Tabling of National ICM roadmaps in the next ICM committee meeting.
- 2) Integration of ICM into the broader marine and seascape and terrestrial landscape.

OECMs:

- 1) Get recognition by IUCN and CBD on other effective area-based management so that Fiji can report against.
- 2) Ensure small community-based conservation is included in the review of PA Policy and legislation.

NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY STRATEGY AND ACTION PLANS (NBSAPs)

Fiji has not submitted an NBSAP during the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 (most recent NBSAP is available at: <https://www.cbd.int/nbsap/search/>).

NBSAP submitted prior to the adoption of the Strategic Plan (2003) - revision underway



APPROVED GEF-5 & GEF-6 PROTECTED AREA PROJECTS

Approved GEF-5 and GEF-6 PA-related biodiversity projects

This includes biodiversity projects from the fifth and sixth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility (GEF-5 and GEF-6) with a clear impact of the quantity or quality of PAs; also including some projects occurring within the wider landscapes/seascapes around PAs. Only those with a status of 'project approved' or 'concept approved' as of June 2019 were considered. The qualifying elements likely benefiting from each GEF project is assessed based on a keyword search of Project Identification Forms (PIF). Where spatial data for the proposed PAs was available, further details (based on an analysis by UNDP) regarding their impacts for ecological representation, coverage of KBAs, and coverage of areas important for carbon storage is included.

GEF ID	PA increase?	Area to be added (km ²)	Type of new protected area	Qualitative elements potentially benefiting (based on keyword search of PIFs)
5170	No	N/A	N/A	Effectively managed; Equitably managed
5398	Yes	55	Marine	All Qualitative Elements
5398	Yes	18	Terrestrial	All Qualitative Elements
9095	No	N/A	N/A	Areas important for biodiversity; Effectively managed; Equitably managed; Integration
9944	No	N/A	N/A	Effectively managed; Equitably managed



UN OCEAN CONFERENCE VOLUNTARY COMMITMENTS

Voluntary commitments for the UN Ocean Conference are initiatives voluntarily undertaken by governments, the UN system, non-governmental organizations, among other actors—individually or in partnership—that aim to contribute to the implementation of SDG 14 (here we focus in particular on SDG 14.5). The registry of commitments was opened in February 2017, in the lead up to the first UN Ocean Conference (5 to 9 June 2017).

Ocean Actions improving MPA or OECM coverage:

#OceanAction16178: Protecting 1 million sq kms through the \$15 million WCS Marine Protected Area Fund, by Wildlife Conservation Society (Non-governmental organization (NGO)).

- Area to be added: **13,650 km²**
- Notes on area added: Aims to establish two offshore multiple use MPAs, which includes no-take areas, and would support seascape-scale fisheries management and biodiversity conservation; see further details in Fiji's WCS MPA project country profile: <https://mpafund.wcs.org/>.
- Progress report: Yes (submitted 2019), status=On Track.
- Further details available at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=16178>.

#OceanAction19959: Protection and Management of All Marine Mammal Species in Fiji, by Ministry of Fisheries and Department of Environment (Government).

- Area to be added: **>14,293 km²**.
- Notes on area added: By 2020, two Important Marine Mammal Areas (IMMAs, the Vatu-i-Ra channel (14,293 km²) and the Central Viti Levu Region (no info on total area), known humpback whale migration, breeding and calving areas, will be gazetted, protected and sustainably managed (Central Viti Levu also covered by *#OceanAction19904*).
- Progress report: No progress report submitted (as of March 2021).
- Further details available at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19959>.

#OceanAction19904: Expansion of Large Scale Marine Managed Areas in Fiji, by Ministry of Fisheries, Department of Environment (Government).

- Area to be added: **no area given**.
- Progress report: Yes (Oct 2018; Overall status = On track). No updated report (2019, 2020) submitted.
- Further details available at: <https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19904>.



Ocean Actions improving MPA or OECM coverage post-2020:

#OceanAction21668: Gift to Our Children! Scaling up locally managed marine areas to 100% of Fiji's customary marine areas, by Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) Network (Non-governmental organization (NGO)).

- Area to be added: **no area given**.
- Progress report: No progress report submitted (as of March 2021).
- Further details available at:
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=21668>.

Other Ocean Actions

Other Ocean Actions submitted as voluntary commitments for SDG 14.5, will also create benefits for the qualifying elements of Aichi Biodiversity Target 11:

#OceanAction19984: Integrated Coastal Management to Preserve Ecosystems Services, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Fiji, by Department of Environment (Government).

- Types of actions involved: Integrated Coastal Management; Restoration of ecosystem services and adaptation to climate change; Ridge-to-reef/land-sea planning and management.
- Target 11 element addressed: Integration; Effectively managed; Ecosystem services.
- Progress report: No progress report submitted (as of May 2021).
- Further details available at:
<https://oceanconference.un.org/commitments/?id=19984>



OTHER ACTIONS/COMMITMENTS

Leaders' Pledge for Nature

Fiji **has** signed onto the Leaders' Pledge for Nature.

Political leaders participating in the United Nations Summit on Biodiversity in September 2020, representing 84 countries from all regions and the European Union, have committed to reversing biodiversity loss by 2030. By doing so, these leaders are sending a united signal to step up global ambition and encourage others to match their collective ambition for nature, climate, and people with the scale of the crisis at hand.

Fiji's statement at the 2020 UN Biodiversity Summit mentions PAs, OECMs or corridors:

By 2050, our region's oceans must be secured by powerful protections that preserve their bounty and beauty for all time. We already established some of the world's largest and deepest no-take zones or marine protected areas in the world, aimed at directly restoring the health and wealth of the global marine biodiversity.

Global Ocean Alliance

Fiji **has** joined the Global Ocean Alliance: 30by30 initiative.

The Global Ocean Alliance 30by30 is a UK led initiative [currently containing 53 countries as signatories]. Its aim is to protect at least 30% of the global ocean as Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) and Other Effective area-based Conservation Measures (OECMs) by 2030.

Other commitments addressing improved coverage of PAs or OECMs

Goal of creating a national network of Marine Protected Areas covering 30% of Fiji's seas (commitment was made at the at the Small Island States Development (SIDS) Conference in Mauritius in 2005 and reconfirmed at the 2014 SIDS Conference in Samoa and COP-13 in Cancun, Mexico).

If completed as proposed, this will increase coverage of marine areas by **~348,000 km²**.



ANNEX I

FULL LIST OF TERRESTRIAL ECOREGIONS

Ecoregion Name	Area (km²)	% of Global Ecoregion in Country	% of Country in Ecoregion	Area Protected (km²)	% Protected in Country
Fiji tropical dry forests	6,889.8	100.0	36.6	93.2	1.4
Fiji tropical moist forests	11,396.7	98.5	60.6	502.9	4.4



ANNEX II

ADDITIONAL DETAILS ON PPAs

- Land in Fiji falls into three categories: native or iTaukei Land (83%); freehold land (10%); and crown land (7%)
- Though the Fijian legal system does not recognize PPAs, there are several mechanisms in place that allow for a private entity to manage land for conservation (e.g. Native Land Trust Board Leases; National Trust of Fiji and Conservation Covenants)
- The National Trust of Fiji was established to, *inter alia*, “promote permanent conservation of lands, buildings, and objects of national historic, architectural or natural interests.” It is funded by the government, independent donors, and multi-lateral organizations and currently administers 11 sites, held under freehold, crown leases, and native leases. It also has the power to enter into binding covenants with landholders, which can include conservation covenants (through as of 2008, the Trust had not yet entered into conservation covenants with landowners)
- Fiji’s NBSAP (2017), submitted to the Convention on Biological Diversity for 2017-2024, highlights the importance of community ownership and participation in developing and managing protected area
- Mechanisms that may support the establishment of conservation areas under private governance include UN REDD+ and Ecotourism
- WDPA currently lists 3 sites under private governance.

Case studies/best practices:

- *Rivers Fiji*: Ecotourism within a Wetland of International Importance: unique conservation effort uses tourist dollars to support the protection of Fiji’s third largest freshwater drainage—home to unique species of fish, parrots and iguanas, Fiji’s only boa constrictor, and the largest intact groves of sago palm, now threatened in the rest of the Pacific; to enhance the conservation of the area’s fragile ecosystems, environmental outreach programs were developed through a partnership between Rivers Fiji and Nature Fiji (an NGO focused on the protection and conservation of the country’s natural environment).
- *Sovi Basin Protected Area*: the basin is the largest remaining undisturbed tract, of lowland forest in Fiji. It is owned by 13 mataqali, with eight small areas of Crown land and two freehold parcels; 16,344 ha of the basin is protected through a 99-year lease between the National Trust of Fiji and the Native Lands Trust Board and Sovi Basin landowners in 2012.

See additional information in country profile (<http://nbsapforum.net/knowledge-base/resource/fiji-country-profile-international-outlook-privately-protected-areas>).



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