



AOSIS Presentation on Marine Biodiversity Conservation and Coastal Resilience

Oceans and Climate Change Dialogue | SB 60

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Importance of Marine Biodiversity and Coastal Resilience

- SIDS depend heavily on marine resources for their economies, food security, and cultural heritage.
- Healthy oceans are crucial for the resilience of coastal communities, supporting tourism, fisheries, and transport.
- Key threats to marine biodiversity include ocean acidification, overfishing, and marine pollution. Addressing these threats is essential for sustaining our way of life and the natural environment that supports us.





Key Initiatives and Best Practices

- **Marine Protected Areas (MPAs):**
 - Safeguard marine biodiversity
 - conserve critical habitats,
 - and sustain fish populations.
 - MPAs help mitigate overfishing and marine pollution.





Key Initiatives and Best Practices

- **Community-Based Management:**
 - Engage local communities and indigenous knowledge in marine conservation.
 - Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) and Community-Based Fisheries Management (CBFM) have been effective but require resources and capacity.





Key Initiatives and Best Practices

- **Climate-Resilient Infrastructure**
 - mangrove restoration, integrated barriers, and wave breakers protect coastal areas from storm surges and erosion.
 - Provide habitats for marine species, sequester carbon, and offer ecosystem services to coastal communities.



Challenges Faced by Small Island Developing States (SIDS)

- **Climate Change Impacts:**

Rising sea levels, increasing sea temperatures, marine heatwaves, and ocean acidification threaten marine biodiversity such as shift in Tuna stock migration and coastal resilience.

- **Lack of Adequate Funding:**

Need for dedicated climate finance to support research, capacity building, and sustainable practices. Traditional funding sources often do not address the unique needs of SIDS.

- **Limited Technological and Scientific Capacity:**

Enhanced data collection and ocean monitoring are necessary to inform policy and management decisions. - Weather-Ready Pacific

There is a severe lack of ocean acidification monitoring systems and combined observing systems.



Fiji Case Study

- **30/30 Biodiversity Target:**

Fiji aims to protect 30% of its marine areas by 2030, setting a strong example.

- **Locally Managed Marine Areas:**

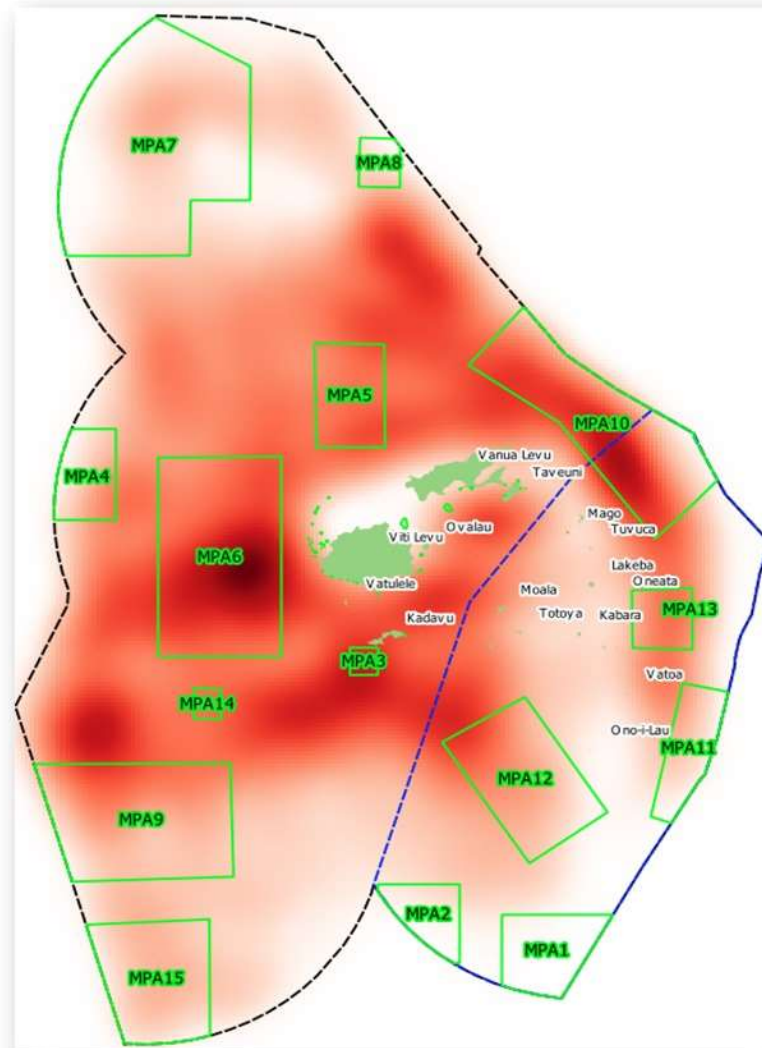
Successful combination of traditional knowledge with modern conservation practices, leading to enhanced marine biodiversity and improved community resilience.

- **Mangrove Restoration and Nature-based Seawalls:**

Projects have protected/undertaken restoration of mangroves in coastal areas and provided critical ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration and habitats for marine life.

- Kiwa and the Adaptation fund is undertaking a nationwide NbS for resilient coastal communities.







Call to Action

- Marine biodiversity conservation and coastal resilience are critical for the sustainability of SIDS.
- The international community must support these initiatives to ensure the health and resilience of our ocean and coastal communities.
- This oceans dialogue is crucial for addressing these issues holistically.
- Concrete outcomes must flow to other thematic areas under the UNFCCC.
- Need for integrated and comprehensive approaches.
- Emphasize engaging and empowering indigenous peoples and local communities.
- Advocate for increased financial resources and capacity-building support.





Thank You!

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