



## STRENGTHENING COASTAL BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT THROUGH PROTECTION AND REHABILITATION INCENTIVES FOR COASTAL CARBON SINKS IN PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

As of: October 2021

Seagrass meadows and mangrove forests provide a wide range of ecosystem services. The project is working with regional partners to map existing seagrass and mangrove stocks using innovative remote sensing methods. This work measures and models the extent to which these ecosystems act as a carbon sinks and are also available for other ecosystem services. The data enable initial estimations of the economic value of natural resources, which help the national governments to implement strategic measures for protection, management and rehabilitation. Effective measures targeting the measurement, reporting and verification (MRV) of mangrove forests and seagrass meadows as carbon sinks will help policymakers to design incentive systems that are aimed at sustainable ecosystem management and restoration. This, in turn, accelerates the implementation of NDCs and national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs).

### State of implementation/results

- At the regional level, the project continues to support the secretariat of the International Partnership for Blue Carbon (IPBC) as a member of an international advisory body in regular online technical conferences. Currently, the advisory body is working on organising and coordinating regional and national dialogues in a way that brings together country needs and potential supporters. Within this framework, a Blue Carbon Dialogue was held with ministries and non-governmental organisations in Fiji in May 2021. Furthermore, the question of an official IPBC membership of Germany arises, as does the question of a possible membership of GIZ.
- Adapting to the COVID-19 situation, the Pacific GIS and Remote Sensing Council (PGRSC) hosted

## PROJECT DATA

### Country/Countries:

Fidschi, Papua Neuguinea, Salomonen, Vanuatu

### Implementing organisation:

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH - Mexico

### Political partner(s):

- Conservation and Environment Protection Authority - Papua-Neuguinea
- Department of Environment - Fiji
- Department of Environmental Protection and Conservation (DEPC)
- Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology - Solomon Islands
- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) - Samoa

### Implementing partner(s):

- Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)
- Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) - Samoa

### BMU grant:

€ 9,220,000

### Duration:

12/2018 till 11/2023





the annual regional conference in February 2021 for the first time in virtual format with good participation of the four project partner countries and a special mangrove segment.

- In close collaboration with the PGRSC Chair, the project continues to work on formalising national GIS user groups in the four partner countries. In Fiji, for example, a project-hosted Practitioner Dialogue on the deeper use of tablet or mobile phone-based GIS and survey applications and possible platform harmonisation between government and development partners was held in February 2021.
- Due to limited travel to national priority seagrass and mangrove ecosystems in Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Papua New Guinea, the project continues to focus on technical remote sensing options and the preparation and testing of exemplary mapping approaches in the priority areas in the partner countries.

