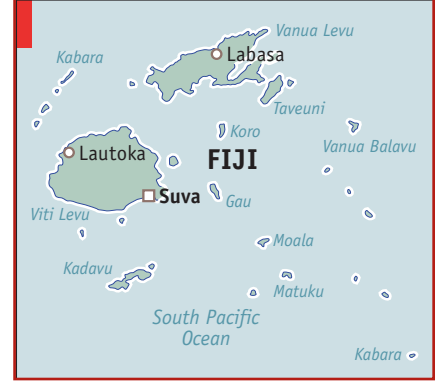


FIJI AND THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES



Progress Towards Environmental Sustainability

The combined land and marine areas of Pacific Island Countries occupy some 30 million square kilometers, accounting for almost 6% of the earth's surface. Many Pacific Island Countries have very small land areas and high population densities, resulting in intense pressure on land and associated resources. Marine areas are very extensive and typically highly diverse biologically, but are vulnerable to overexploitation, pollution and environmental change. Marine and terrestrial resources remain important across the region for both subsistence use and economic development.

Despite the absence of reliable data, a number of priority regional environmental issues have been identified and a broad consensus reached on their importance. These include: loss of environmental biodiversity, threats to fresh water resources and marine water quality, degradation and overuse of coastal and marine resources, unsustainable forestry and land use practices, climate change and sea level rise, land and sea based pollution, degradation of critical habitats, and waste management.

Data for the Pacific region indicate that the percentage of land area under protection varies from a high of 33% (Kiribati) to a low of 0.27% in Vanuatu. The absence of terrestrial protected areas in Marshall Islands, Palau, Tokelau and Tuvalu reflects the fact that these islands have designated coastal protected areas, which combine both marine and terrestrial elements

QUICK FACTS

CURRENT PORTFOLIO BUDGET

Total UNDP-GEF and Co-Finance:	\$11,086,843
Total UNDP and Co-Finance:	\$2,731,356
Total MPU and Bilateral:	\$11,362
Total:	\$13,931,824

Cumulative Total ODS Phased-Out: 5.2 ODP tonnes

Most Pacific Island Countries have committed to phasing out the use of ozone-depleting substances by the end of 2005. Eight of the islands (Micronesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu) are participating in a regional strategy to implement the Montreal Protocol; Fiji, Samoa and Papua New Guinea are receiving assistance directly from the Montreal Protocol's Multilateral Fund. The new parties to the Protocol, Cook Islands, Niue and Nauru will participate once funding is received to implement activities outlined in their National Compliance Action Plans.¹

SPOTLIGHT



Turning Garbage into Profit in Kiribati²

Garbage – once a source of bad publicity and an eyesore on the beautiful Kiribati landscape – is now being turned into a viable sustainable business venture that is improving the environment, while contributing to the economy.

In 2002, the Foundation of the People of the South Pacific – Kiribati (FSPK) set up the Kaoki Mange Waste Recycling Facility, a joint NGO/private sector-run operation working with the Kiribati Government, with the support of UNDP and 10 other donors. Kaoki Mange means "Return the Garbage". The Kaoki Mange facility is close to achieving its goal of transferring the waste recycling operation to a private company which will run it as a business, making a profit while ensuring the cans, batteries and other solid waste material is recycled in a sustainable manner.

In December 2004, the Government passed the Special Funds (Waste Materials Recovery) Act. The Act established a Special Fund where deposits on cans, PET bottles, and batteries are given to encourage their recovery for recycling. In this way Kaoki Mange receives 1 cent from every can or PET bottle they recover. Moreover, they are able to keep the cans and PET bottles, which they crush and export back to their source, mainly Australia. In this way they remove garbage and clean up Kiribati, while making a profit.

The achievements of the solid waste management recycling project in Kiribati, and the successful way in which it has brought together an NGO, the Government, aid donors, the people of Kiribati and the private sector, who are about to turn it into a sustainable, profitable private business, is a model of partnership for sustainable development. UNDP is now looking at ways in which the project could be replicated in other Pacific countries with similar solid waste management problems.

Environmental problems of PICs are unique to these small island developing states and are of high priority given their fragility and isolated nature. It therefore demands a focus on building capacity that will assist PICs in formulating integrated approaches that improve resource management. Not only it is important to assist countries in developing appropriate policies, but also ensure that local communities are provided the opportunity to meaningfully participate through provision of assistance such as the GEF small grants which is a people's GEF. Reconciling these two ends of the spectrum will substantively contribute to the achievement of MDGs and to the alleviation of poverty in the long run.



Richard Dictus, Resident Representative

PORTFOLIO

FSSD* There are numerous UNDP funded strategic initiatives underway in the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Palau, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Vanuatu. These projects include national capacity self assessments, national adaptation plans of action, and biodiversity strategy and action plans that aid in priorities and needs for capacity building to protect the environment and natural resources and to assist in meeting obligations under the biodiversity, climate change and land degradation global conventions.

WATER A regional sustainable integrated water resource management project assists ten Pacific Island countries to address the needs and priorities of sustainable integrated management of their water resources that will lead to improved livelihoods and ecosystem integrity.

ENERGY Rural electrification is a major priority, in particular in Fiji. UNDP with funding from GEF is implementing a project with the objective of removing barriers for the implementation of renewable energy systems for rural electrification. This is in addition to a regional initiative to be implemented in Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu to assist in the design and application of environmentally sustainable transportation systems.

BIODIVERSITY UNDP is assisting a number of the Pacific Islands address the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity considering the critical nature and vulnerability of biodiversity resources. For example, two projects are under implementation in Vanuatu and Micronesia aiming to facilitate, adapt and strengthen local resource management initiatives by traditional landholders, chiefs and their communities and to strengthen local, provincial and national capacity to support biodiversity conservation. In addition, in collaboration with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei and relevant government institutions, UNDP is assisting local community groups to better manage their watershed forest resources through management, surveillance and restoration plans.

CHEMICALS Under the Montreal Protocol compliance programme, Fiji is working with UNDP and UNEP in developing a project to phase-out newly identified methyl bromide consumption and to provide identified additional assistance with activities typical of those in an RMP update to sustain the phase out of CFCs first achieved in 2000. These activities will all figure as part of a strategic national ODS phase-out strategy.

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PARTNERS

Some of our Partners working with UNDP and the Government in Fiji and the Pacific Island Countries

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