

CONCEPT NOTE

MACBLUE Seagrass Mapping and Monitoring Training

10-16 July 2025

Venue: Southern Cross Hotel, Suva, Fiji

1. BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

The **Management and Conservation of Blue Carbon Ecosystems (MACBLUE)** project aims to strengthen coastal biodiversity conservation and management through protection and rehabilitation incentives for coastal carbon sinks in Pacific Island countries. Implemented jointly by SPREP, GIZ and SPC, the project utilizes innovative remote sensing approaches to map the extent of seagrass and mangrove ecosystems in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu and assesses and models related carbon storage capacity, emission potential and ecosystem services. The resulting data allows inventories of associated natural capital and supports government partners in their efforts to strategically develop and implement conservation, management, and rehabilitation efforts. Based on effective mapping and analysis of the carbon sequestration and storage of seagrass and mangrove ecosystems, governments are assisted to establish nationally appropriate incentives for sustainable management and rehabilitation efforts as part of NDCs and other national and regional strategies and policies.

Specifically, the project has five key thematic areas:

- 1) National mapping of mangroves and seagrass ecosystems
- 2) Ecosystem valuation with emphasis on carbon stock, emission factors and anthropogenic threats
- 3) Blue carbon policy and institutional strengthening
- 4) Implementation of local management approaches
- 5) Communication of proven concepts, project results and best practices

Contributing directly to thematic area 1, the seagrass monitoring and mapping training is designed to enhance participants' skills in collecting data/information critical for the management and conservation of seagrass and other important marine resources. The training will introduce the participants to two key protocols:

- Level 1 Seagrass-Watch intertidal monitoring module
- Seagrass-Watch seagrass mapping module

The methodology to be employed are propriety to Seagrass-Watch Headquarters and Seagrass-Watch Ltd has been contracted by SPREP, as the sole authorized entity to deliver the training to the participants from the MACBLUE project partner countries (Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu).

2. Training Approach

The training will consist of a classroom/theory component and a practical exercise in the seagrass meadows in Suva. The seagrass monitoring and mapping methodology to be employed are those recognized by Seagrass-Watch. The training be conducted over a course of 5-days and the participants will be provided with a 1-year quality assurance and quality control (QAQC) from Seagrass-Watch Ltd for 3 monitoring events.

3. Target Audience

The training is designed for government officials and conservation practitioners working in the field of seagrass and marine resource management, mapping, and blue carbon.

4. PROGRAM

Tentative Program 10 – 16 July 2025

Date:	Location: Suva and Field Nase	Session	Activity	Low tide
Thursday, 10 July 2025	Day 1	Intertidal Monitoring	Classroom Session 830 – 1530 (<i>times subject to change</i>)	
Friday, 11 July 2025	Day 2	Intertidal Monitoring	Classroom & field event 0830 – 1600 (<i>times subject to change</i>)	Low tide 1307 0.50
Monday, 14 July 2025	Day 3	Intertidal Monitoring	Classroom 0900- 1500 (<i>times subject to change</i>)	
Tuesday, 15 July 2025	Day 4	Mapping intertidal seagrass	Classroom & field event 830 – 1700 (<i>times subject to change</i>)	Low tide 1550 0.49
Wednesday, 16 July 2025	Day 5	Mapping intertidal seagrass	Classroom 0900- 1300 (<i>times subject to change</i>)	