



PEUMP

Pacific-European Union Marine Partnership Programme



By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative: Integrated Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Management

Healthy coastal ecosystems, particularly coral reefs, mangroves and seagrass habitats, are critical in underpinning coastal fisheries and vital ecosystem services that provide significant additional benefits to Pacific coastal communities and economies. These ecosystem services include shoreline protection, maintenance of water quality, support for reef and nearshore tourism activities, and resilience to the impacts of climate change.

Climate change is predicted to have a range of impacts on Pacific island countries and territories. Major impacts on coral reef, seagrass and mangrove ecosystems, and watershed runoff, are anticipated as a result of sea level rise, ocean acidification, shifting rainfall patterns, and increased intensity of storm events. Ocean acidification alone threatens the structural integrity of coral reefs and the viability of invertebrate species dependent on calcium production. Adaptation to these predicted impacts and changes must be applied in both ecosystem and social contexts.

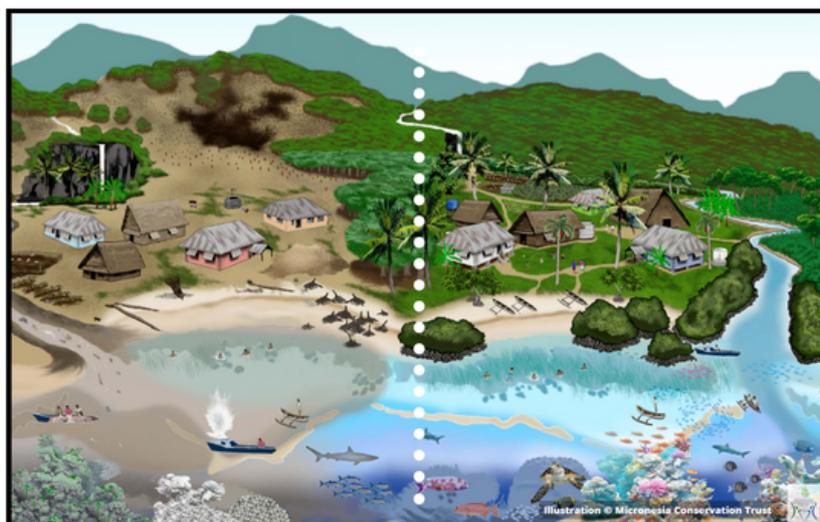
Activities 5.2 and 5.3 of the BIEM Initiative will promote ridge to reef ecosystem-based management and ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change approaches in five areas in Vanuatu and Fiji to help address these issues and promote the sustainable use and restoration of coastal ecosystems for the benefit of coastal communities and wider society.

Unsustainable forest clearance and agricultural practices

Poorly managed livestock and human waste

Mangrove deforestation, sand and coral mining destroy important fish habitats

Over-fishing and destructive fishing practices



Forested catchments and sustainable agricultural practices

Well-managed livestock and human waste

Healthy mangroves, seagrass beds and coral reefs support healthy fish stocks and marine wildlife

Sustainable fisheries

By-catch and Integrated Ecosystem Management Initiative

Integrated Ridge to Reef Ecosystem Management Goal:

By December 2022 BIEM Initiative funding will have been used to support coastal communities, government authorities and partners to develop widely supported integrated ecosystem management plans for five coastal areas and associated watersheds that provide a strong foundation for the sustainable management of natural resources and reducing poverty within coastal communities despite the impacts of climate change, whilst contributing to the delivery of national conservation priorities.

Objectives:

Work with and increase the capacity of men, women and youth in coastal communities, government authorities and partners to:

- Put gender, human rights and poverty alleviation considerations at the heart of the planning and implementation of activities.
- Map and assess the ecological status of the selected coastal areas and associated watersheds that coastal communities depend upon for their livelihoods.
- Assess the threats to ecosystems and livelihoods as a result of current resource use and the expected impacts of climate change.
- Develop widely supported integrated ecosystem management plans for selected coastal area and associated watersheds that identify realistic activities to help promote the natural adaptive capacity of coastal habitats to support sustainable livelihoods and reduce poverty;
- Begin the implementation of prioritised activities.
- Identify and secure technical and financial support to implement identified activities beyond December 2022.

Further information about the BIEM Initiative is available on the PEUMP programme website: <https://peump.dev/KRA/marine-biodiversity>.



SPREP Vision: A resilient Pacific environment sustaining our livelihoods in harmony with our cultures
sprep@sprep.org www.sprep.org

Lead organisation:



Activity coordinators:

