

What will ocean acidification cost us?

Ocean acidification is the ‘other’ greenhouse gas crisis.

If we keep emitting carbon dioxide like we do today, the ocean’s pH could drop by 150% by 2100 and coral reefs may become a memory. Some corals already show signs of dissolving in the acidified ocean waters, and we are just starting to learn about the effects of ocean acidification on other marine life.

While scientists reckon that ocean conditions will be so acidified by 2080 that even otherwise healthy coral reefs will be eroding more quickly than they can rebuild, economists estimate that reefs provide 30 to 172 billion dollars of value each year.

The effects on reefs, shellfish, and more add up. Globally, USD 1 trillion every year could be lost due to ocean acidification, according to a **report from the Convention on Biological Diversity**.

We don’t have many good estimates of the cost of ocean acidification specifically to Pacific island people and economies. But we do know that the ocean is central to the economies and livelihoods of Pacific island peoples.

About 90 per cent of all Pacific islanders living within five kilometres of the sea.¹

¹ Excluding Papua New Guinea; Andrew et al. (2019) Coastal proximity of populations in 22 Pacific Island Countries and Territories. PLOS One 14(9):e0223249. DOI: [10.1371/journal.pone.0223249](https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0223249)

Pacific island countries and territories maintain resource rights and management over approximately 27 million square kilometres of ocean, totalling 20 per cent of the global exclusive economic zones.

Fiji's marine resources and their services to Fiji's people are worth more than FJD 2.5 billion per year.²

In the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, the ocean provides value equivalent to about one-third of the national economy each year.² Micronesia's ocean economy has an estimated worth of USD 548 billion, or USD 5.4 billion annually.³ Even just Pacific Ocean-based fishing and tourism alone provide USD 3.3 billion to the national economies of Pacific island countries and territories.⁴

When you support climate–ocean action, you are saving money – and saving us too.

Help give voice to this Pacific Conversation – learn more about **ocean acidification in the Pacific islands**.

**Join in the Pacific Conversation: #SaveOurOcean
#ResilientPacific**



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- 2 See national assessments by the MACBIO Project (Marine and Coastal Biodiversity Management in Pacific Island Countries): <http://macbio-pacific.info/categories/valuing/>
- 3 Spalding et al. (2016) Atlas of Ocean Wealth. The Nature Conservancy.
- 4 Seidel & Lal (2010) Economic value of the Pacific Ocean to the Pacific Island Countries and Territories. Gland: IUCN.

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