



Tourism Guidelines for Marine Life and Habitat Sustainability

Pacific BioScapes Programme - Regional Activity

The Pacific BioScapes Programme is providing support to develop new **Regional Marine Tourism Guidelines** that incorporate best practice engagement for the environment and marine species.

Tourism plays a critical role in the development of Pacific Island countries and is a major driver of economic growth and employment. Increasing tourist awareness of marine species and habitats can help mitigate the possible negative consequences of human interactions with wildlife. Tourism can also provide educational experiences that motivate tourists, promote environmental sustainability, and instigate broad behavioural and societal change.

In response, the **Pacific Tourism Organisation (SPTO)** is developing Regional Marine Tourism Guidelines that will inform the sustainable development and management of marine tourism activities across Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

CENTRAL ISSUES:



Tourism can impact species such as whales, dolphins, turtles, dugongs and seabirds



Tourism pressures on marine species can impact local cultures and beliefs



Potential risks to tourists from interaction with wildlife

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY SUMMARY:



Develop marine tourism guidelines to protect species and habitats



Include safety considerations for operators into guidelines



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PACIFIC TOURISM ORGANISATION