



Mapping and Monitoring Coral Reefs for Improved Resilience

Pacific BioScapes Programme - Regional Activity

The Pacific BioScapes Programme is providing support to implement the **Pacific Coral Reef Action Plan 2021-2030**. Developed with SPREP's members and adopted in September 2021 at the 30th SPREP meeting, the plan enables leaders of Pacific Island countries, coral-reef managers and community members to coordinate their efforts and access resources to protect these valuable ecosystems.

The Pacific region is home to approximately 25 per cent of the world's corals. Climate change, ocean acidification and pollution are having an impact on these reefs, and large-scale responses to these threats are urgently needed. To prevent Pacific coral reefs degrading further, coordinated efforts are required.

SPREP together with the **International Coral Reef Initiative, International Coral Reef Monitoring, national and local governments, communities** and international science partners including the **Australian Institute of Marine Science** is developing coral reef monitoring methodology, targets and indicators for the Pacific under the BioScapes Programme. These will provide the information required to prioritise adaptation activities and guide the management and restoration of coral reefs across the region. This also brings the opportunity to build capacity in government and communities to take part in the mapping and monitoring of their own coral reef ecosystems.

CENTRAL ISSUES:



No consistent methodology for ongoing regional and national coral reef assessments



Limited coral reef monitoring, control and surveillance capacity in governments



Communities require support to participate in coral reef monitoring and management

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY SUMMARY:



Develop practical methodology for mapping of coral reef status and health



Build coral reef monitoring and management capacity for governments



Better management of coral reefs by identifying pressures



Increased engagement of communities in tracking health of reefs

The Pacific BioScapes Programme is a European Union (EU) funded action, managed and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) www.sprep.org/bioscapes