

Regional Marine Protection Priorities

Pacific BioScapes Programme - Fiji, Palau and Vanuatu

The Pacific BioScapes Programme aims to identify and strengthen the management of **Key Biodiversity Areas (KBA)** in the Pacific region. These areas are 'sites contributing significantly to the global persistence of biodiversity', in terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems. The KBA identification process requires a highly inclusive, consultative, and bottom-up, approach focused on the national level when proposing sites to communities.




Birdlife International will support the governments of **Fiji, Palau** and **Vanuatu** to develop National Co-ordinating groups for KBAs and implement a range of activities to promote the conservation and management of KBAs at a national level. The KBA Standard will be applied to existing and new KBAs in the Pacific to more comprehensively identify and map important sites for biodiversity by building the capacity to apply the criteria nationally and support the conservation of identified sites (with a focus on marine sites).

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KBAs = Key Biodiversity Areas

CENTRAL ISSUES:

-  At least 550 KBAs in the region require re-assessment
-  Multiple standards need to be incorporated into a single KBA system
-  Previous 'top-down' approaches to conservation may not have always incorporated community perspectives

PROGRAMME ACTIVITY SUMMARY:

-  Develop a standard for the establishment of Regional Marine KBAs
-  Establish National KBAs Co-ordinating Groups in Fiji, Palau, and Vanuatu
-  Initiate conservation actions at 1 site in each of the project countries using a human-rights based approach
-  Assess making KBA data more accessible to key stakeholders

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