



MESCAL

Mangrove EcoSystems for
Climate Change Adaptation & Livelihoods



MESCAL & the Pacific Mangrove Initiative

MESCAL is the first major project to be implemented by IUCN Oceania under the emerging Pacific Mangrove Initiative.

The Pacific Mangrove Initiative (PMI) is an umbrella partnership-based initiative of IUCN for supporting mangrove conservation in the context of coastal zone management for adaptation to climate change and sustainable livelihoods of the Pacific people.

For more details, visit the IUCN Oceania webpage:

<http://www.iucn.org/oceania>

*IUCN Oceania is currently in the process of formalising core partnerships of the PMI.



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What benefits will MESCAL provide?

Investing in Natural Coastal Infrastructure . . .

Pacific Island countries are highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change and variability. Conservation of mangroves and associated coastal ecosystems has been identified as a key natural adaptation strategy and mitigation measure to the effects of climate change. Protecting these vital ecosystems also safeguards the livelihoods of coastal Pacific Island communities.

Mangrove ecosystems, renowned for providing goods and services which are highly valued by the peoples of the Pacific, are under continued threat from overharvesting, degradation and land reclamation. Weak governance, disconnect between formal and traditional management systems, limited baseline information, weakening traditional management, lack of awareness and limited capacity are some of the key challenges of mangrove management faced in the Pacific.

Under the Pacific Mangrove Initiative, the MESCAL project was developed to address these key challenges to mangrove management and conservation. Adopting an Ecosystem-based Management (EbM) approach, the project focuses on finding stakeholder-based solutions supported by scientific evidence and traditional knowledge to positively influence decision-making at all levels of governance.

The project aims to assist in climate-proofing coastal communities and sustaining livelihoods by promoting investments in mangrove and associated coastal ecosystems in the five participating countries.

Increased awareness about environmental, social and economic values of mangrove ecosystems for making informed decisions about their appropriate use and management.	Development of appropriate partnerships across all levels of society to safeguard and sustain Oceania's mangrove ecosystems in supporting livelihoods and adaptation to climate change.
Strengthened enabling framework conditions, including institutional and social capacity, to encourage joint management of mangrove ecosystems through shared ownership and responsibility between national and subnational governments, communities and private sector.	Stakeholder-based identification and development of cost effective governance of mangrove ecosystems - organizational arrangements, decision-making processes, mechanisms, and incentives for change - that encourages mangrove conservation and restoration, reflecting principles of ecosystem based joint management.
Improved GIS-based information, including scientific and traditional knowledge on environmental, social, cultural and economic aspects of mangrove ecosystems, to support effective stakeholder engagement and governance, for improved adaptation to climate change and sustainable livelihoods.	Potential for using mangrove ecosystem-based carbon credits from conserved and or restored mangroves assessed and feasibility of participation in the REDD related global carbon trade identified.

Who will benefit?

- Vulnerable coastal communities
- Traditional/customary decision makers
- Government level decision-makers
- Non governmental agencies

MESCAL is a country-specific, country-driven, multi-dimensional partnership project

Project Funding:

The project is being funded by the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) under its International Climate Protection Initiative.

Project Partners

Project partners include University of the South Pacific (USP), Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), WorldFish Solomon Islands Pacific Base, Vanuatu Cultural Centre and Tonga Community Development Trust, as well as the governments of the participating countries.

Project Location

MESCAL involves activities across five Pacific Island Countries: Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. The Project Management Unit is based at the IUCN Oceania Regional Office in Suva, Fiji.

Project Timeframe

4 years (December 2009 – December 2013)