



Marine Protected Areas Contributing to Poverty Reduction

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Nature's Investment Bank: How Marine Protected Areas Contribute to Poverty Reduction

4 sites were selected where local experts believed the MPA had contributed to poverty reduction.

Parties involved:

TNC, WWF, PREM (in Netherlands), National Universities, local NGOs and support from the Australian Government



Site	Local Pop.	MPA Age	Management Regime
Navakavu Fiji	600	5 years	One community of traditionally related people manages all
Arnavon Islands, Solomon Islands	2,200	11 years	Co-managed by three communities, the provincial government and an international NGO

Poverty Focal Areas

Opportunities	Empowerment	Security
Income	Governance mechanisms	Health
Housing	Community participation	Social cohesion
Luxury goods	Benefits to woman and youth	Cultural traditions
Fish catch	Access and rights	Maintenance of natural resources
Education		
Alternative livelihoods		



Summary of findings

The 4 marine protected areas clearly contributed to poverty reduction in relatively different dimensions of poverty.

The contribution to poverty reduction came from:

- Increased fish catches
- New jobs
- **Better local governance**
- Benefits to health
- **Benefits to women**
- **More social cohesion**
- **Revival of traditional customs and values**

Summary of findings

- Navakavu, Fiji

- **Community Committee was established**
- **Woman with more diversified economy and more influence in the community decision-making processes**
- **Youth drama group formed**



Some findings for- Arnavons, Solomon Islands

- Better local governance resulted in more links amongst dispersed communities from different cultural background
- New jobs in seaweed farming and in the MPA (more power to different sectors of the community)
- Cultural tradition revived (listening to the chief)
- Better health due to a more diversified diet and the use of the MPA boat as an ambulance



Some Success factors from MPAs- Poverty Reduction Study included

- Local management or co-management of marine resources
- New income activities to ensure the local communities benefited tangibly in the short term and that diversified influence within the community
- Woman and youth also benefitting

