

# Pacific Protected Areas – protecting our natural heritage for future generations

Our protected areas were established to protect the best of our remaining natural terrestrial, wetlands and marine areas for current generations, they are our key legacy to gift to future generations of Pacific islanders. However, only about 5% of the Pacific’s land and 2% of the marine area currently have some form of protection, and few protected areas are adequately managed.

## Did you know?

- Our global target for protected areas is the conservation and effective management of 10% of coastal and marine and 17% of terrestrial areas
- The Pacific has a one of the highest rates of species extinctions of any region in the world especially for birds, and in recent history islands have had 80% of all known species extinctions.

## Why should Pacific islanders care?

Our protected areas help safeguard our native, endemic and threatened plants and animals, they also help maintain healthy and functioning ecosystems such as rainforests, mangroves and coral reefs, maintain regular and clean water supply, protect our soils from erosion and increase the resilience of our islands to climate change.

Pacific island cultures have a deep spiritual connection with nature. Our cultures, society and livelihoods evolved from an intimate connection with nature which supplied all our needs and continues to provide most of the resources our economies depend on.

Pacific island cultures have historically set aside land and sea for temporary or permanent protection of natural resources such as rahui or raii, and tapu or tabu areas. Modern methods of protected area management enhance and complement our Pacific island traditional approaches.



To learn more about protected areas in your country, why they are important and what you can do to help keep them intact, please visit [pipap.sprep.org](http://pipap.sprep.org) and [www.biopama.org](http://www.biopama.org)

*Our choices, our actions, our protected areas.  
Make the right choice, have that  
Pacific conversation today.  
Let's all work together to make a difference!*



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