



The ReefBase Newsletter provides registered users with updates on new additions to the ReefBase database and website. You have received this newsletter as you are a registered user of ReefBase and indicated that you wanted to receive our electronic newsletters.

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Announcements

1. June's theme: The Pacific Islands



Featured photo of the month: Fish catch two months after tsunami, Solomon Islands, Pacific
(Photographed by Alex Tewfik)

It has long been known that the most bio-diverse coral reefs in the world lie in the Indo-Pacific region which encompasses an extensive area of over 6.5 million square kilometers of shallow-water habitat ([Wells, 2000](#)). However, in recent years rapid development, including the impacts of overfishing, chemical pollution, sedimentation and rising sea surface temperature, have caused huge negative impacts to these precious marine ecosystems. The continuing deterioration of these systems not only threatens biodiversity and critical ecosystem services but also the livelihoods of the coastal communities of Pacific Islands (estimated to be more than 20 000 islands in total), and more broadly, which are heavily dependent on the natural resources derived from the sea.

The estimated value of non- subsistence fisheries and tourism in the Pacific Islands is USD262 million and USD1 billion respectively ([Muller at al., 2000](#)), that is exclusive of subsistence fishery which plays a big part of the economy although it is not monetized. To emphasize the

prominent role of subsistence fishery, a report from World Bank stated that as many as 83% of the coastal households of Solomon Islands, 35% in Vanuatu and 99% in Kiribati, 87% in the Marshall Islands and half of the households of Upolu (Western Samoa) are fished primarily for local consumption (Ram-Bidesi, V., 1997). The situation of deteriorating coral reef ecosystems hence demands an urgent call for sound science, appropriate resource management, and associated strengthening of information access and dissemination in support of effective coral reef conservation management.

The ReefBase Pacific project has been designed with the specific objective of utilizing the regional-wide network and knowledge-base on coral reef systems in the creation of an effective and easily accessible information system to maximize distribution and accessibility for users based in the Pacific Islands and around the world.

The project continues to develop a region wide network and knowledge base to improve availability and accessibility to various forms of reef associated information. It aims to support researchers, managers and students in their reef resource monitoring and management activities, and to ensure that appropriate information reaches all decisions makers. The online and DVD systems that have been developed serves as a source of instant access to the wealth of existing and newly acquired information relevant to the management and sustainable use of coral reefs in the Pacific. The ReefBase Pacific is the first regional focus of the global ReefBase Project.

For more information please visit the website: <http://pacific.reefbase.org>.

2. ReefBase call for photos

The ReefBase website would like to extend a request for photo contributions.

The photo gallery is part of ReefBase's objective to develop a relational database and information system for structured information on coral reefs. These resources will serve as a computerized encyclopedia and analytical tool for supporting reef management, conservation and researches around the world. Hence our photos in the gallery are freely accessible to our registered users and the public strictly for non-commercialized purposes only.

We are looking for relevant photos concerning:

- coral reefs (fisheries, biology, bleaching, etc)
- mangroves and coastal ecosystems
- coral reef monitoring, survey and evaluation
- community based management/ participation and resource management

Currently ReefBase is on the lookout for photos from the Pacific Islands; however photos from other regions are also welcomed. Next month's theme would center on Coral Bleaching and the best photo will be featured in July's newsletter.

Please visit our website for more contribution details:

<http://www.reefbase.org/contribute/default.aspx>

or contact us by email with the subject, "ReefBase Photos"

reefbase@cgiar.org (ReefBase email)

3. Marine activities at the IUCN World Conservation Congress



More than 8,000 of the world's leading decision makers in sustainable development: from governments, NGOs, business, the UN and academia. Together in one place for 10 days: to debate, share, network, learn, commit, vote and decide. The objective: ideas, action and solutions for a diverse and sustainable world.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event. Held every four years, the Congress aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development.

The next Congress will take place from 5 to 14 October, 2008, in the Centre de Convencions Internacional de Barcelona (CCIB) at Barcelona, Spain. More than 8,000 leaders from government, the public sector, non-governmental organizations, business, UN agencies and social organizations will discuss, debate and decide solutions for the world's most pressing environment and

development issues in the following three streams:

- A new climate for change
http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/issues/climate/index.cfm
- Healthy environments - healthy people
http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/issues/healthy/index.cfm
- Safeguarding the diversity of life
http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/issues/diversity/index.cfm

Marine conservation, the High Seas and MPAs will be significant high profile elements of the Congress. There will be four main marine themes with around approx 25 workshop sessions which are being planned. These themes are: oceans and high seas governance; fisheries; Marine Protected Areas and; oceans and climate change. Detailed info on workshops will be released in the next month or so.

Be a part of it and register now:

http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/attend/congress_register/index.cfm

For more information, visit

http://cms.iucn.org/news_events/events/congress/index.cfm

New additions to the ReefBase Publication database (Featured publications from the Pacific Islands)

1. After the earthquake: An assessment of the impact of earthquake and tsunami on fisheries related livelihoods in coastal communities of Western Province, Solomon Islands (Poster)

- Schwarz, A., C. Ramofafia, G. Bennett, D. Notere, A. Tewfik, C. Oengpepa, B. Manele and N. Kere. 2007. After the earthquake: An assessment of the impact of earthquake and tsunami on fisheries related livelihoods in coastal communities of Western Province, Solomon Islands. The WorldFish Center and WWF: Solomon Islands Programme. (ID: 26358)

Almost 90% of rural communities in the Western Province, Solomon Islands are coastal-based (FAO) and heavily dependent on fisheries resources for their livelihood. On April 2nd, 2007 a large earthquake and tsunami hit the Western Solomon Islands causing varying degrees of damage and disruption to such coastal communities.

http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=26358

2. Monetary and non-monetary values of small-scale fisheries in Pacific Island countries

- Kronen, M. 2007. Monetary and non-monetary values of small-scale fisheries in Pacific Island countries. SPC Women in Fisheries Information Bulletin #16. March 2007 (ID: 26197)

SSFs suffer from a lack of political attention, which is typical for informal sectors. The absence of detailed records on volumes landed, the lack of or incomplete knowledge regarding costs, prices and benefits, and the absence of mechanisms to take into account unpriced (non-monetary) benefits make it difficult to gain political momentum and support for fisheries management.

http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=26197

3. Commensurability of scientific and indigenous ecological knowledge in coastal Melanesia: implications for contemporary marine resource management strategies

- Foale, S. 2002. Commensurability of scientific and indigenous ecological knowledge in coastal Melanesia: implications for contemporary marine resource management strategies. Resource Management in Asia-Pacific Working Paper No. 38. Research School for Pacific and Asian Studies, The Australian National University, Canberra. 15 p. (ID: 20623)

Fundamental ontological differences between scientific and indigenous ecological knowledge systems in coastal Melanesia have resulted in very different conclusions being drawn from similar sets of observations. The same inductive logic may lead both scientists and non-science-trained fishers to conclude that, say, square-tail trout aggregate at a certain phase of the moon in a certain reef passage, but different assumptions

derived from disparate ontologies (in this case "traditional" Melanesian versus scientific) may lead to very different conclusions about why the fish are there.

http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=20623

4. Managing Fisheries for Biodiversity: Case Studies of Community Approaches to Fish Reserves among the Small Island States of the Pacific

- MacKay, K.T. 2001. Managing Fisheries for Biodiversity: Case Studies of Community Approaches to Fish Reserves among the Small Island States of the Pacific. Paper presented at Blue Millennium: Managing Global Fisheries for Biodiversity Workshop, Victoria, BC in June 2001. UNEP-BPSP Thematic Studies Integration of Biodiversity into National Fishery Sectors Document. (ID: 15075)

Humans have had a large impact on the terrestrial biodiversity in the Pacific. For example, in Fiji a large number of plants and animals have been introduced. The introduction of mammalian predators such as cats, mongoose, and rats has contributed to the extinction of a number of native ground nesting birds while the introduction of livestock and deforestation has permanently change the habitat of many offshore islands.

http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=15075

5. Pacific Islands Environment Outlook

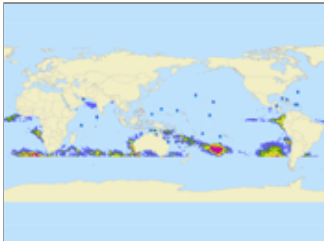
- UNEP. 1999. Pacific Islands Environment Outlook. United Nations Environment Programme Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean. (ID: 19554)

Over the past 100 years, the Pacific has experienced far reaching economic changes, which have led to environmental change and degradation. Lifestyles have changed from subsistence to cash-driven societies reliant on budgetary assistance and remittances, although a traditional dependence on natural resources for daily needs, food, tools, transport and waste disposal remains in spite of new technologies and lifestyles.

http://www.reefbase.org/resource_center/publication/main.aspx?refid=19554

Online GIS

1. May 2008 NOAA Coral Reef Watch's Satellite Monitoring Products

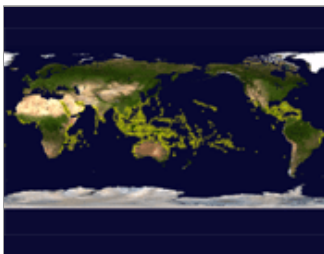


This map shows the global observations of coral bleaching occurrences combined with NOAA Coral Reef Watch's satellite monitoring products including Sea Surface Temperature, Sea Surface Temperature Anomaly, Bleaching HotSpot and Degree Heating Weeks. These datasets are added into ReefBase Online GIS each month.

To view the latest May 2008 maps, click here.

<http://reefgis.reefbase.org/redirect.aspx?urlid=2487>

2. Tips to ReefGIS – Reefs from Space



Reefs from Space is one of the maps featured in ReefGIS where it stores a comprehensive collection of NASA Astronaut Photographs taken for coral reefs areas that are overlaid with 3 optional background global maps (World Map, NASA Blue Marble and SeaWiFS Bathymetry).

With a collection of 1,490 coral reef images, its repository of images has become the basis for a new Internet-based library for the Millennium Coral Reef Project. Together with another large selection of digital/digitized photographs of coral reef areas taken by astronauts on board the Space Shuttle and the International Space Station, ReefGIS users will be able to query for more information and data relating to the selected reef areas globally.

<http://reefgis.reefbase.org/redirect.aspx?urlid=2493>