



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



FAO IN THE PACIFIC

2021

ANNUAL REPORT

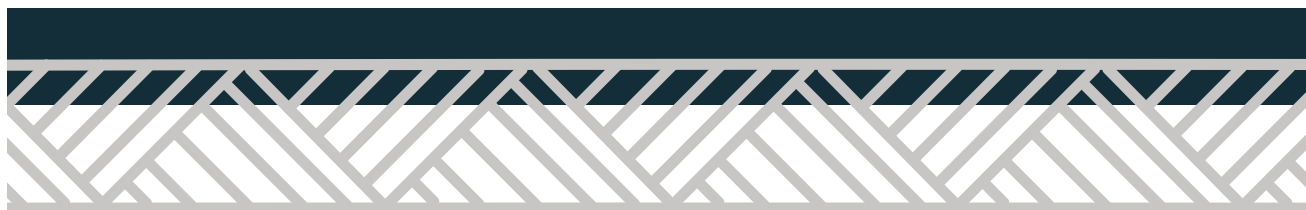
of FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands



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Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
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ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS



ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific
APPPC	Asia and Pacific Plant Protection Committee
ASF	African swine fever
COP26	2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference
CPF	Pacific Multi-Country Programming Framework
FAD	fish aggregating device
FAO SAP	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands
FBDG	food-based dietary guideline
FIRST	Food and nutrition security impact, resilience, sustainability and transformation programme
FishFAD	Enhancing livelihoods and food security through fisheries with nearshore fish aggregating devices in the Pacific Ocean project
GEF	Global Environment Facility
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFM	Integrated Forest Management project (Solomon Islands)
ILAMS	Integrated Lands and Agroecosystem Management System project (Tonga)
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KJWA	Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture
MAL	Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (Solomon Islands)
MIMRA	Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority
MoA	Ministry of Agriculture
NGO	non-governmental organization
PA	protected area
PSMA	Port State Measures Agreement
R2R	Ridge to Reef project
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SMA	special management area
SOLA	Solutions for Open Land Administration (Tonga)
SPC	Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
TC	tropical cyclone
TCP	technical cooperation programme
UN	United Nations

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR



MS XIANGJUN YAO

FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific

and Resident Representative for Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Though its impacts were felt differently in each of the Pacific countries in 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the crucial results that the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) achieved in the region. Despite all the challenges, FAO's support in the Pacific still succeeded in reaching all its 14 member countries.

In the following pages, I invite you to explore "FAO in the Pacific: 2021 Annual Report" which presents the results that FAO-led projects and programmes contributed to the timely and effective joint response by the United Nations family, governments and other partners under various thematic clusters including climate change, emergencies, fisheries and aquaculture. It also looks at longer-term gains made in forestry, livestock, and nutrition and food safety work and highlights how statistics and policy programmes supported key data, reporting, planning and decision-making, including assisting several nations to develop various national censuses.

These pages also capture how, throughout 2021, FAO's Office in the Pacific continued to adapt its programmes to respond to the challenges of working

during the COVID-19 pandemic. An example of this is the launch of the first-ever virtual learning centre for the Pacific Islands region.

COVID-19 has also pushed Pacific countries to innovate and digitalize their systems. To highlight and upscale their successes, in August 2021, FAO in partnership with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), the Government of Fiji as a co-host, organized the first SIDS Solutions Forum in Apia, Samoa. The forum highlighted innovative technical and digital solutions that support resilient agrifood systems, improve nutrition and health, and strengthen climate change resilience.

Behind these results are the day-to-day testimonies of our partners, beneficiaries and colleagues working tirelessly to achieve food security and improve the livelihoods of Pacific Island populations.

Thank you for taking a look at our work, which was made possible by the support, generosity and investment of our many partners.

I encourage you to read on.

Ms Xiangjun Yao

FAO IN THE PACIFIC

The FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands (FAO SAP) was established in 1996 in Samoa to coordinate the work of the organization in the Pacific region. Through the years, the Office has been transformed into a technical and knowledge hub which supports 14 countries in the Pacific: Cook Islands, Fiji, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Tokelau is an Associate Member.

The FAO SAP office is currently located in Apia, Samoa, with country offices in Suva, Fiji; Honiara, Solomon Islands; Port Villa, Vanuatu; and Nuku'alofa, Tonga. A network of Assistant FAO Representatives (in Fiji, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Samoa and Vanuatu) in the Pacific Islands assists the work of FAO SAP.



Joann Young, AFAOR Fiji



Philip Tuvavalagi, AFAOR Samoa



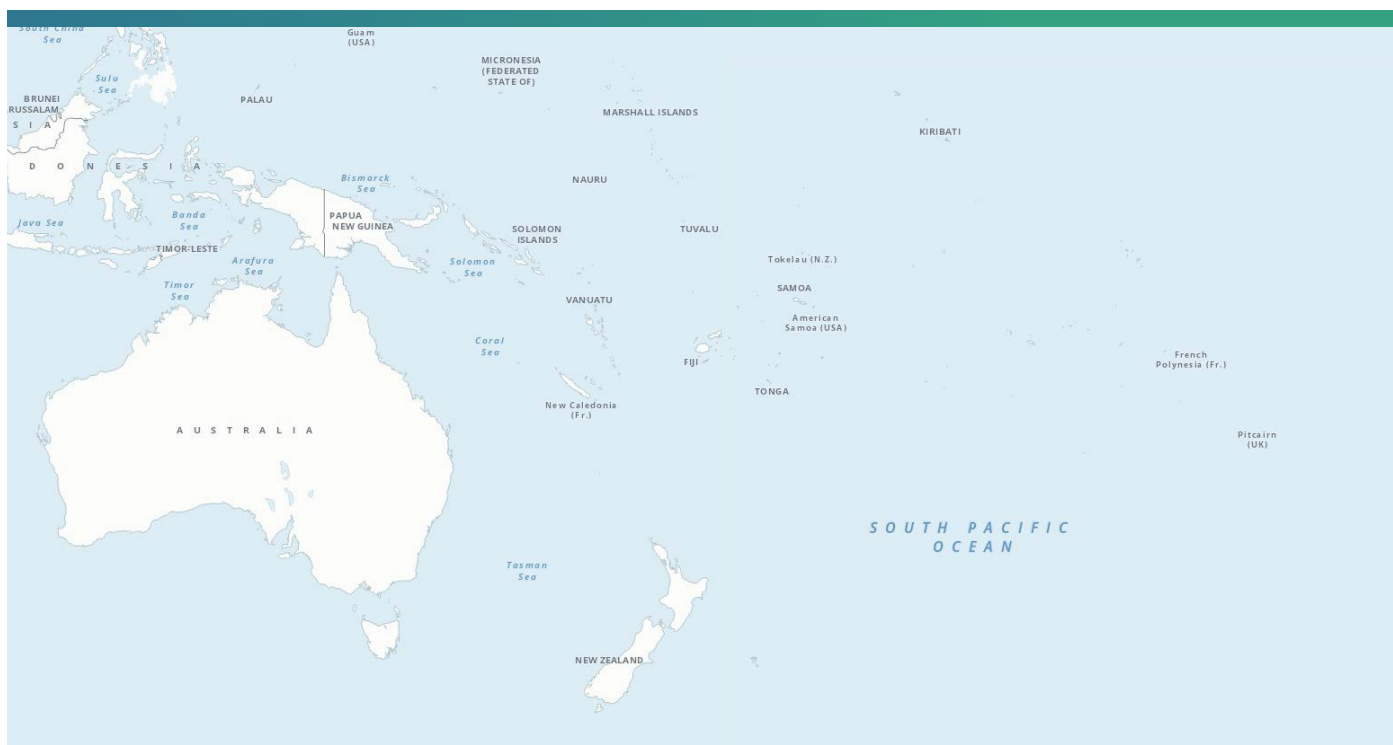
Pau Likiliki, AFAOR Tonga



Graham Nimoho, AFAOR Vanuatu



AFAOR Solomon Islands



Source: UN. 2020. Geospatial Clear Map [online]. [Cited 26 April 2022]. geoservices.un.org/Html5Viewer/index.html?viewer=clearmap

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FAO in the Pacific works with national governments and other stakeholders to identify priority areas for national and regional assistance. The Office is responsible for developing, overseeing and implementing programmes and projects to address food security, nutrition, agriculture and rural development priorities.

FAO's work plays a catalytic role in linking agriculture and health, strengthening interagency linkages and developing partnerships to foster a sustainable increase in production, trade and marketing of domestic agriculture products, and healthy consumption of diverse, safe and nutritious food. To achieve these goals, FAO assistance to the Pacific countries has been focused on three interlinked areas of delivery interventions:

- 1** evidence-based recommendations developed and promoted to incentivize the production and consumption of safe and healthy food,
- 2** sustainable and climate-smart practices promoted to help build resilient agriculture, fisheries and forestry production systems,
- 3** food control and business practices identified and promoted to facilitate efficient agrifood value chains which provide safe, nutritious and affordable food.

In accordance with specific country issues and identified priority needs, the results were delivered through fostering strong partnerships with relevant government ministries, the private sector, farmers' organizations and NGOs in the Pacific. In addition, FAO works closely with other UN agencies as well as the Council of Regional Organisations in the Pacific (CROP) under various projects and initiatives.

In 2021, FAO maintained programmes and activities in all 14 member countries attaining key achievements in agriculture, food systems, fisheries, livestock and other areas, in collaboration with local, regional and global partners.



FAO in the Pacific: 2021 highlights

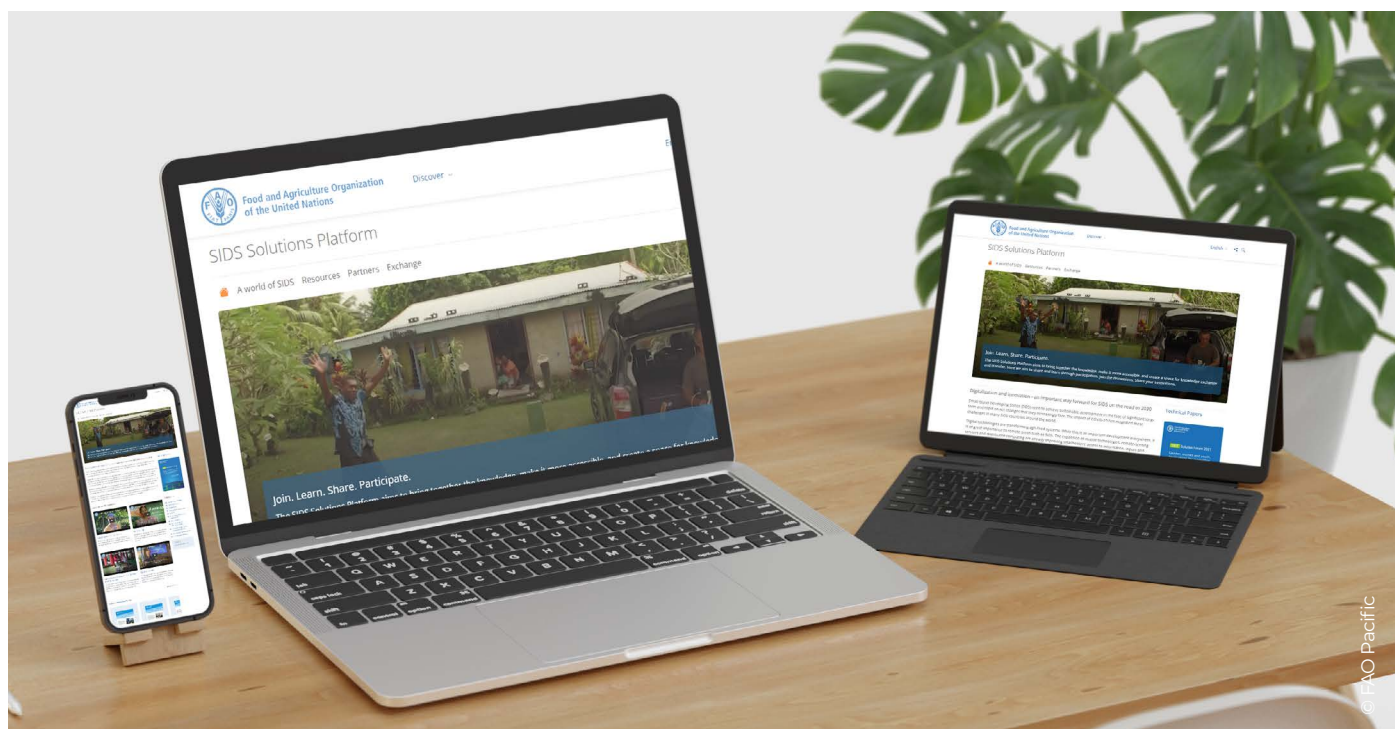
Small Island Developing States Solutions Platform

Like all Small Islands Developing States (SIDS), Pacific countries confront a unique set of challenges, including the remoteness and isolation, high exposure and vulnerability to natural disasters, high dependence on imported food, a crisis of diet related diseases, etc. These challenges are further exacerbated by the arrival of the COVID-19 pandemic that is crippling national economies. For example, Samoa's GDP for 2020 [contracted by 9.2 percent](#) because of COVID-19. Moreover, [evidence suggests](#) that the pandemic is reversing gains in achieving some of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in SIDS, for example, in the Pacific.

But the Pacific SIDS are also marked by numerous opportunities. For example, the countries are home to some of the world's richest marine and terrestrial biodiversity hotspots, combined with a very high potential for innovation that can be leveraged to catalyse agrifood systems.



As one way of contributing to addressing the unique challenges of SIDS, the FAO Director General, created the SIDS Solutions Platform as a uniquely innovative intra- and interregional knowledge exchange to incubate, promote, scale up and replicate locally grown ideas to accelerate the achievement of agriculture, food, nutrition, environment and health related SDGs in SIDS; but to also allow SIDS to copy good practices from other countries.



To officially launch the Platform, on 30 and 31 August 2021, FAO, in collaboration with the Government of Fiji as co-host and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), organized a successful SIDS Solutions Forum. The theme of the SIDS Solutions Forum was

“COVID-19 impacts on the economy and the potential of digitalization and innovation to accelerate progress on resilient agrifood systems; improved nutrition and health; and strengthened climate resilience adaptation within the context of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).”

About 1 600 people from various countries attended the Forum, either virtually or physically, in Apia, Samoa. Nine Heads of States/governments and 20 ministers from SIDS; the President Elect of the UN General Assembly (UNGA); Ministers of Agriculture from China and Ireland; the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS); the Secretary General of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS); the Director General of FAO and eight heads of other UN and regional agencies; and senior representatives of international financing institutions (IFIs) were notable attendees. There were also 11 SIDS solutions innovators, women and youth leaders, parliamentarians, policy makers, UN and development partner officials, academics, researchers, farmers, and fishers in attendance.





The Forum was headlined by the FAO Director-General, Dr. QU Dongyu; Prime Minister of Fiji, H. E. Josaia V. Bainimarama; President Elect, 76th Session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) and Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Maldives, the Honorable Abdulla Shahid; Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Mr. Achim Steiner; Chair of AOSIS and Ambassador of Antigua and Barbuda, H.E. Dr. Walton Webson; and Secretary General of ITU, Mr. Houlin Zhao. The most common and recurrent theme from the leaders was the need to support locally grown solutions of innovation and digitalization that can accelerate the achievement of the SDGs while mitigating the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As a key result of the Forum, FAO launched the SIDS Solutions Platform, which will facilitate knowledge sharing within and between SIDS, and between SIDS and other countries. Additionally, 11 innovation and digitalization solutions were showcased by their proponents. Key solutions included the My Kana App, which provides information about healthy food and healthy meals in Fiji; Plastic Recycling Samoa, which uses low-cost recycling machines to recycle plastics into goods that can be used and sold; and Jedom Organic Fruits in Solomon Islands, which developed a low-cost, low-maintenance hot air dryer for fruits and vegetables that is powered by coconut shells.

Participants of the SIDS Solutions Forum made several recommendations, which are summarized into 12 key action points:

1



Harness the power of information and communications technology (ICT) to build effective and resilient agri-food systems to enable farmers, fishers and artisans – who include women, youth and people with disabilities – to gain the full benefits of development.

2



Strengthen support to ICT infrastructure with a special emphasis on the agriculture and fisheries sectors.

3



Support the development and implementation of e-agriculture strategies linked to national ICT strategies.

4



Support, promote, scale up and replicate homegrown SIDS solutions as well as provide tangible, long-term assistance, including a Pacific start-up package.



"This Forum was a success, upon which we can build to collaboratively create opportunity for financing innovators in SIDS."

*Shelly Burish,
President, Samoa Women Association of Growers*

SIDS
Solutions Forum
30 and 31 August 2021

Digitalization and innovation for sustainable agriculture, food, nutrition, environment and health.



© FAO Pacific

5



Promote the leadership of women and youth in the use of digital technology in agrifood systems.

6



Build financial and digital literacy and support women and youth to transition into the formal financial ecosystem, especially the digital economy.

7



Submit the SIDS Solutions Platform to United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) as a key SIDS partnership to support the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway and the SDGs.

8



Promote and support the SIDS Solutions Platform, including linking to existing and similar platforms.

9



Mobilize the necessary resources and partnership alliances to catalyze, scale up and replicate identified 2021 SIDS solutions to support the implementation of the agreements of the 2021 UN Food Systems Summit and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

10



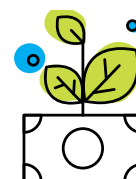
Invest in south-south and triangular cooperation (SSTC) focused on sharing knowledge and technological support, including those offered by China and Ireland.

11



Support the application of the Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (MVI) in line with the SAMOA Pathway, which will allow the inclusion of many income-based criteria to assess eligibility for concessionary finance.

12



Establish structured and targeted regional financing appropriate for SIDS as well as a pool of regional experts on accessing financing, including in structured financing.

World Food Day

For the very first time, the FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands (SAP) and the Pacific Governments coordinated and organised national celebrations of World Food Day 2021 (WFD2021). WFD2021 events saw active participation of Heads of Governments, Ministers and other senior government officials, who were joined by members of the diplomatic corps in the region.

Samoa

In Samoa, Prime Minister Hon. Fiame Naomi Mataafa delivered the keynote address. The Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries, Hon. La'aulialemalietoa Leuatea Polataivao Fosi Schmidt, also used the occasion to launch the Samoa Food Systems Pathway 2030 and new variety of taro for export, called Taro Vave (fast taro). FAO Subregional Coordinator for the Pacific Islands, Xiangjun Yao, also addressed the gathering. WFD2021 celebrations brought together the Government, international development partners, the private sector and civil society.

Community groups, academic institutions and the diplomatic corps were in full attendance. In total about 200 people participated. Extending to an evening market, the event was extensively covered by the country's media and social media outlets.



Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries Samoa

Solomon Islands

The WFD2021 commemoration in the Solomon Islands comprised of a three-day celebration and was attended by the Deputy Prime Minister Hon. Manasseh Maelanga, and other Ministers of the crown. The Honiara City Lord Mayor and other Diplomatic Heads and heads of Missions also attended. The programme included a float parade followed by the grand opening. Stakeholders set up stalls to showcase their products. The Prime Minister, Hon. Manasseh Damukana Sogavare attended and launched the ten years Strategic Plan for Agriculture Sector, as well as the three days World Food Day event. The celebration was organised by the Solomon Is WFD Working Committee and the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock.



Cook Islands

The commemoration of WFD2021 in Cook Islands was opened by the Minister of Agriculture, Hon. Vainetutai Rose Toki-Brown, and coincided with the launch of the International Year of Fruits and Vegetables 2021. Held at the Taua Terevete, Avarua, Rarotonga, it was opened by the Secretary of Agriculture Mrs Temarama Anguna-Kamana. Over 45 vendors participated selling fresh produce, organic produce, cooked food, seafood, value added products, desserts, floriculture and craft. Other activities included a Ministry of Health booth for nutritional information, the Potiki Makona Kai Competition (children's cooking competition) and the Rarotonga Burger competition. For entertainment, there was a Bouncy castle for children and a live band.



Fiji

The commemoration of WFD2021 in Fiji was opened by His Excellency Minister of Agriculture, Dr Mahendra Reddy and His Excellency Minister of Health, Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete. Held virtually, due to COVID-19 restrictions in Fiji, the event featured a Food Heroes video as well as the message from the Director General of FAO. The winners of the Home Garden Initiative and a WFD Poster Competition were announced during the launch. The occasion was also used to distribute seed packs to all Health Facilities.

In other parts of Fiji, such as Bilalevu Sigatoka, smaller celebrations consisted of Farmers displaying local crops and dietitians promoting healthy eating and nutrition counseling.

In Samabula, the commemoration included a live radio broadcast from a store set up with healthy appliances – air fryer, steamer, juicer and local fruits and vegetables. The Nadi, Macuata Subdivision and Cakaudrove marked WFD2021 with gardening activities



Kiribati

The WFD celebration was jointly supported by FAO, the Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agriculture Development (MELAD), the Nutrition Centre, Embassy of The People's Republic of China in The Republic of Kiribati and the Live and Learn Project and lasted five days. A competition “Best Farmer” was held as part of the commemoration of WFD2021. It involved farmers from Kiribati, NGOs and hundreds of members of the community.

On the 25th October 2021, the WFD2021 commemoration at Betio Tobwan Tirikirake Park was attended by Government officials including Miss Kiribati. Guests were encouraged to wear black to honour the lives of people who have passed away due to hunger. More than 1 000 leaflets containing key messages from FAO on WFD2021 were distributed to guests – including students. Other activities included a Bazaar and clean up (Tabon te katii), Land Management Division Day, Market day, Bottle cap mural competition and the Distribution and planting of food crops at targeted Betio households among others.

National UN Food Systems Summit dialogues

In September 2021, the UN Secretary-General convened the UN Food Systems Summit (UNFSS) with the aim of maximizing the co-benefits of a food systems approach across the entire 2030 Agenda and meeting the challenges of climate change. The overall intention for UNFSS was that national food systems should make the greatest possible contribution to the needs of people and the planet as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To this end, numerous National UNFSS dialogues were convened by national governments and individuals from across all of society.

FAO has successfully supported the organization of several Member State Food System Dialogues led by Pacific countries. In the region, FAO supported national dialogues hosted in and by Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands and Tonga, convening over 1040 participants joining remotely and in person.

Through these dialogues, partners were able to discuss how to ensure their nations' food systems are healthy, safe, sustainable and available to everyone. Building on the discussions and take-home messages, FAO has supported the four countries further to develop their own food system plans to achieve the Summit objectives.

FAO's support in coordinating the dialogues was publicly acknowledged by all the Pacific Islands governments, UN and CROP agencies. The support was provided within the framework of the FIRST - FAO-EU Partnership Policy Assistance Mechanism



Fiji

In Fiji, the National Food System Dialogues were hosted from May to July 2021 with five different themes connected to the UNFSS action track dialogues and gathered almost 800 participants. These dialogues analyzed the main challenges faced by the current food systems to be able to provide affordable, sustainable and healthy diets for all. They provided a platform for multisector collaboration and discussion on the food systems where participants identified areas in which a transformation was needed and potential game-changing solutions that could make this happen, as well as some areas of greater divergence among stakeholders.

After the first series of events, a National Food System Dialogue was held at the end of July bringing together a wider variety of actors across the food system from civil society organizations, academia and the private sector to discuss pathways for transforming the food system in Fiji. This virtual National dialogue was opened by the Prime Minister of Fiji, Hon. Josaia Voreqe Bainimarama and throughout the three days Ministers, Permanent Secretaries and other Senior Government Officials participated. FAO has also contributed to the main outcome of the dialogues - Fiji's Pathway to "A Safe, Resilient, Innovative Food System".

Solomon Islands

In the Solomon Islands, the National Food Systems dialogues leading up to the UN Food Systems Summit in September were led by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock as the National Convenor. The dialogues produced a number of findings and recommendations that were later structured as a Pathway for food systems' transformation (to be published in 2022).

FAO assisted Solomon Islands in the preparation of the dialogues by organising, conducting and compiling the discussions and recommendations resulting from a number of multisectoral meetings focused on local food systems. Three main National Food System Dialogues were held with a wide array of stakeholders from different backgrounds including the government ministries, private sector, NGOs, institutions, UN agencies and farmers. The process identified the main challenges and complexities that need to be addressed in order to achieve sustainable healthy diets for all Solomon Islanders and changes that need to be brought about for local food systems transformation considering trade-offs envisaged among their different elements.

Vanuatu

The backbone of the discussions during the [National Food System Dialogue in Vanuatu](#) has been the [Gudfala Kakae Policy](#), a cross-sectoral policy on Food and Nutrition Security formulated with FAO-EU FIRST technical assistance and endorsed by the Cabinet in 2019.

FAO IN THE PACIFIC: 2021 RESULTS



COVID-19 RESPONSE

The COVID-19 pandemic upends the world and the way in which organizations work. To respond to the need for a greater reliance on local supplies and food as global supply chains are interrupted, as well as shifting to remote work, FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands created several initiatives to respond to the continuing pandemic.

The Office demonstrated flexibility and innovation in adapting its existing programmes and developing new ones to address the COVID-19 context. Some notable highlights are as follows:

- Under the UN Secretary-General's special fund, FAO developed and implemented the "Enhancing food security and building socioeconomic resilience to COVID-19 in Tuvalu" project.
- FAO adapted the activities under the "Enhancing livelihoods and food security through fisheries with nearshore fish aggregating devices in the Pacific Ocean (FishFAD)" project to the pandemic realities and successfully supported coastal fisheries communities directly impacted by COVID-19.
- Nutrition programmes were adapted and successfully strengthened local food systems (impacted by COVID-19) by promoting climate-resilient and sustainable urban and peri-urban agriculture value chains project in Solomon Islands and Cook Islands.
- In collaboration with the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), FAO published "Reinforcing Pacific Food Systems for COVID-19 recovery – key impacts, responses and opportunities to build back better". The document examines how COVID-19 has affected existing food security and nutrition challenges and provides key actions to respond.
- In Kiribati, FAO adapted the "Pacific Ridge to Reef (R2R)" project to assist communities with the impact of COVID-19, including supporting backyard garden and livestock training for 1500 farmers in South Tarawa and the outer islands.
- To continually adapt to the COVID-19 context, FAO launched its first-ever virtual learning centre for the Pacific Island region through two pilot courses on African Swine Fever (ASF) and One Health. The four-week ASF course benefited more than 90 local animal health and biosecurity experts. The One Health course benefited more than 100 livestock, environment, plant health, public health, and natural resource and disaster management experts.

CLIMATE CHANGE

In 2021, FAO's work on climate change in the Pacific focused on raising the profile and progress of the Koronivia Joint Work on Agriculture (KJWA) project. Stemming from an agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the project looks at how climate change affects the agricultural sector across six key areas: soils, nutrient use, water, livestock, methods for assessing adaptation, and socioeconomic and food security dimensions. KJWA intends to show how sustainably managed agriculture can address the negative effects of climate change. Examples include maintaining healthy soils that can sequester carbon and help rural communities become self-sufficient and resilient, as well as supporting efficient fertilizer use and enhanced manure management for food production and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The first Pacific regional cooperative workshop for KJWA was held in July 2019 in Nadi, Fiji. In 2021, this collective agricultural climate action continued to address Pacific Small Island Developing States' (SIDS) unique needs under the project's six components to expand the agricultural response to climate change and ensure food security in the region.



Global climate change messaging

For the first time, the Pacific SIDS made a submission to the UNFCCC about KJWA's regional progress. A total of 11 countries are involved in KJWA, and Fiji submitted the short paper on behalf of the countries. This submission was made with the aim of updating the Conference of Parties for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26), held from 31 October to 12 November 2021 in Glasgow, Scotland, the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland.

The KJWA submission called on related parties to decide on continuing KJWA after COP26, proposed organizing regional workshops with agricultural experts, requested urgent consideration of climate actions and financing related to agriculture, emphasised the need to involve communities, and asked for countries' support in developing tracking tools to measure climate change impacts as well as adaptation and mitigation measures. FAO also supported Pacific SIDS to create clear and cohesive key messages for COP26. These messages outlined Pacific SIDS' key priorities and needs under KJWA.

Climate change advocacy and awareness

To raise advocacy for and expand the reach of FAO climate change work in the Pacific under KJWA, the Office hosted four webinars and three workshops. Participating partners and attendees responded positively to the webinars, which covered the following topics:

1. improved soil carbon, soil health and soil fertility under grassland and cropland,
2. improved nutrient use and manure management towards sustainability and resilience,
3. improved livestock management systems, and
4. socioeconomic and food security dimensions of climate change in the agricultural sector.

The workshops covered the following topics, with a focus on preparing SIDS for COP26:

1. Pacific SIDS KJWA submission preparation,
2. COP26 preparatory meeting, and
3. soil testing for resilience, adaptation/mitigation co-benefits,
4. preparation for field demonstration.



“

“I am very supportive of KJWA because I am aware of the potential benefits for Fiji and the region. As such, I was very happy to be able to contribute to our region's submission to COP26 in support of KJWA, and very grateful to FAO for organizing the webinar that got us together from various parts of the Pacific to discuss and work on a regional submission.”

*Dr. Nat Tuivavalagi, Cooperative Research & Extension Department,
College of Micronesia-Micronesia (Federated States of)*

The FAO SAP Climate Change Team also delivered a regional training for the Pacific Islands on Climate Resilience and Food Production Systems – Agriculture and Coastal Fisheries. The training was hosted in partnership with the Pacific Climate Change Centre's Project for Capacity Building on Climate Resilience in the Pacific through the Pacific Climate Change Centre e-Learning Platform, the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), and the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). A total of 65 participants attended the training. The Pacific Climate Change Centre is located on the SPREP campus in Vailima, Samoa.

EMERGENCIES

In 2021, FAO implemented multiple projects to support communities to respond to and recover from natural disasters across the region, including Tropical Cyclone (TC) Harold, TC Tino, TC Yasa and TC Ana, as well as the impact of COVID-19 across the Pacific and the ash fall from the Mount Yasur volcano eruption on the island of Tanna in Vanuatu. FAO's emergency work in 2021 reached a total of 11 233 beneficiary households in Cook Islands, Fiji, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Restarting production systems

From 2020 to 2021, about 6 035 households in Fiji and Vanuatu received support from FAO to recover from the impact of the April 2020 TC Harold. The implemented activities included land preparation, the distribution of day-old chicks, poultry feed and seed packages, and food conservation training.

FAO responded to the impacts of TC Yasa in Fiji by supporting 3 817 households with seed packages and tools, fishing gear and post-harvest materials.

In Tuvalu FAO provided replacement of milkfish farming cages and paddling canoes, plus materials for repairs to community fish processing centres, all of which got damaged by cyclone Tino.

These initiatives have continued with capacity development of essential skills training in boat building and fish processing activities.

Emergency response support

In Vanuatu, FAO's emergency work is coordinating interventions through the Global Environment Facility's (GEF) Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management project to expand agricultural ventures and respond to emergencies.

FAO's team in Vanuatu responded to a request from the Provincial Government of Tafea to provide emergency support for the October 2021 eruption of the Mount Yasur volcano. To assist, the project team trained 26 administrative secretaries (20 men and 6 women) in how to use the KoBoToolbox software on Android tablets to improve their data management and data collection skills. Supported by the project team, these trainees then carried out the damage and loss assessment with 408 households.

In South Pentecost Island, FAO supported livelihood recovery through the Farm Field School emergency approach. As a result, 15 Farm Field Schools were established, with 15 agroforestry nurseries and 300 backyard gardens with micro-irrigation systems installed. In addition, 20 multiplication plots with tubers and resilient root crops were installed.

Climate resilience and food security

In 2021, FAO finalised the European Union-funded “Pro-Resilient Fiji – Strengthening climate resilience of communities for food and nutrition security” project. The project successfully strengthened capacity at both the local and national levels in Fiji to identify, analyse, prepare and respond to climate-induced disasters. The project also supported gender equality as well as environmental and economic sustainability, while employing a human rights-based approach. The project reached 30 388 farmers throughout its three-year term.

Regional Pacific Food Security Cluster co-leadership

FAO co-leads the regional Pacific Food Security Cluster, in partnership with World Food Programme.

In 2021, FAO and partners continued to support active national food security clusters in the Pacific Island region, and these clusters include Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu. While the support method (largely remote due to COVID-19 travel restrictions) resulted in some limitations, notable achievements included helping revise the Vanuatu Food Security and Agriculture Cluster Standard Operating Procedures and developing the La Niña 2021 Anticipatory Action advisories for food security and livelihoods. Furthermore, FAO actively participated in inter-cluster coordination mechanisms and shared pertinent information on disaster responses and COVID-19 impacts with regional and national partners to inform and guide interventions.



Despite the limitations of operating predominantly remotely throughout 2021, quite some achievements were made last year in terms of supporting national clusters, such as working with the Vanuatu Food Security and Agriculture Cluster to update their SOPs to reflect their experience of responding to TC Harold. Furthermore, operating remotely does provide some benefits: with the regional Pacific Food Security Cluster meetings held on zoom, cluster partners regardless of location can easily attend.

*Kara Jenkinson,
FAO Emergency and Resilience Coordinator for the Pacific*

FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE

FAO's work related to the Pacific fisheries and aquaculture focuses on enabling sustainable fisheries for Pacific Island countries.

Supporting small-scale fishers

Multiple projects were developed to improve the capacity of small-scale fishers and fish workers to organize and advocate for themselves. In 2021, this work involved developing a questionnaire to identify existing capacity and training needs. This questionnaire was first tested in Fiji, then used in all seven FishFAD project countries: Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Samoa, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The data has helped create targeted training activities and will continue to inform the FishFAD project. In addition, a review of legislative frameworks was undertaken to create and run fisher groups in several countries. Consultations with Samoa's small-scale fisher associations were also completed, working towards the development of their association roadmap, which seeks to identify the associations' priority development and capacity needs.

Climate change adaptation through high-value species

The FishFAD project has established excellent linkages with national fisheries departments across all seven project countries. The FishFAD project also has project-funded national project assistants who are embedded within the country fisheries offices. These assistants work to ensure the FishFAD project belongs to the countries involved. By the end of 2021, procurements for all fish aggregating device (FAD) materials, fishing gear and sea safety equipment were finalized. Related activities for the Marshall Islands and Tonga were also supported through the Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) for their respective nearshore fisheries programme.

Training videos, accompanied by step-by-step manuals, were developed to teach nearshore FAD fishing skills. These videos and manuals cover alternative fishing methods to use when fishing around FADs. A training of trainers on nearshore FAD fishing, which introduced nine different FAD fishing techniques, was conducted with staff of the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA). The aim is for MIMRA staff to deliver these trainings with local fishers in the Marshall Islands. An additional training video for catching flying fish and post-harvest value-adding was developed. FAO, in collaboration with the Bureau of Marine Resources and The Nature Conservancy, also conducted a weeklong fishing skills training with 11 fishers in Palau.

In addition, support was provided for FAD policy development. A national nearshore FAD management plan was drafted with MIMRA for the Marshall Islands, which is a roadmap for the management of FADs for local, small-scale fishers. The aim is for MIMRA to continue to finalize and implement the management plan. A national FAD policy for Tonga was also drafted with the Tonga Ministry of Fisheries.

Safety at sea

A training video was developed for outboard maintenance and repair, including instructions on how to make paddles and install flotation devices to existing crafts as sea safety measures. In addition, through the FISH Safety Foundation in New Zealand, the FishFAD project provided safety at sea trainings in all seven project countries.

To complement the safety at sea programme and facilitate value-add for income generation and food security, a series of capacity-building workshops on fish handling and product development took place in Fiji, Kiribati and Tuvalu. Consumer and producer surveys were developed to identify relevant products and markets in the Marshall Islands and Palau for the FishFAD project to target this country-identified priority.



Community-based fisheries management

In 2021, FAO SAP provided technical support in strengthening community-based fisheries management programmes in Samoa and Tonga. Tonga's draft manual for the country's Special Management Area (SMA) programme, developed with the Ministry of Fisheries, was completed in 2021, as well as SMA compliance materials that included standard operating procedures, along with translated brochures and posters. A study to understand the socioeconomic impact of SMAs on landlocked communities in Tonga was also completed. Awareness materials were developed for Samoa's community-based fisheries management programme.

Improving “Life below water”

In 2021, several regional capacity-building workshops and trainings were completed on the following Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 14 targets and indicators: SDG 14.4.1, SDG 14.6.1, SDG 14.7.1 and SDG 14.b.1. The target audience for the trainings included national fisheries agencies, statistics officers and national SDG focal points. An expert roundtable discussion and regional mapping exercise for SDG 14.4.1 was completed to identify ways to help the region better report on this indicator. A Pacific guidance document for reporting on SDG 14.b.1 was published in 2021, and a handbook on SDG 14.7.1 was developed.

Sustainable aquaculture strategies

National strategies for aquaculture business development opportunities were finalized in 2021 for the Micronesia Association for Sustainable Aquaculture Network members (Palau, Marshall Islands, Micronesia [Federated States of] and Nauru) and Kiribati.

“

Fiji's coastal FishFAD program has definitely been welcomed by our coastal communities as they have shown positive successes in improving catch rates, they have also improved accessibility to pelagic species by small scale fishers resulting in increasing fishing efficiency. The program has also allowed our small scale fishers to fish away from their reefs and catch very productive, sustainable and nutritious fish, without having to spend on purchasing additional gears or bigger fishing vessels.

*Ms Neomai Ravitu,
Director for the Ministry of Fisheries, Fiji*



FORESTRY

In the Pacific Island region, FAO forestry work is focused on conserving and sustainably managing forests, agroforests and trees, as well as understanding the roles they play in conserving the environment, contributing to rural livelihoods and human nutrition, and mitigating and adapting to climate change.

Enhancing agroforestry and plant management in Tonga

In Tonga, FAO helped develop guidelines and templates for operational plans in agroforestry, the use of forests and trees to rehabilitate degraded land, the enhancement of regrowing forests, and a tree seedling nursery. FAO also established demonstrations that showed how to use these templates.

In addition, FAO developed the draft 'Eua Water Catchment Area Plan for Tonga and produced a training module to support guidelines for the propagation of timber species.

In partnership with the Tonga Community Development Trust and its network of village women's groups, FAO delivered a practical training that shared technical skills in seedlings and plant management. The training focused on identifying rare plants that have a high cultural and medicinal value, as the women's groups specialize in this field. As a result of the training, the Fine'upepe nursery was established, distributing more than 500 plants to member groups and supporting more than 30 women in Tongatapu to establish or improve their own home plant nurseries.



Training in forest inventory including new web-based technologies such as FAO's Open Foris and associated open source software tools will assist Tongan MAFF foresters and others to develop Tonga's national forest inventory — essential for forest carbon estimates and REDD+ funding and planning of the agroforestry sector and value-added coconut industries.

*Lex Thompson, Senior Forestry Consultant,
FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands*

In addition, FAO supported the legal establishment of three local conservation committees in Bay Homo on South Pentecost Island, Aneityum Island and through the Nusumetu Conservancy on Tanna Island. Six village conservation committees are also being established. The project also established two agroforestry nurseries and two resilient tuber replication plots in Nusumetu.

Forest sector outlook studies

A major component of FAO's forestry work in the region in 2021 focused on developing Forest Sector Outlook Studies, which contribute to thematic and country reports that accompany the regional Asia-Pacific Forest Sector Outlook Study III. These supplemental, regional reports cover topics that include how forest governance relates to customary land ownership in Pacific Island countries and the ability to increase resilience for people and landscapes in relation to the role of forests and trees in the climate change context. Based on national consultation with key forestry stakeholders, specific country reports are being developed for Fiji and Vanuatu, to determine the outlook of each country's forest health and the expected responsiveness to climate change and other environmental concerns.

Boosting ecosystem restoration and sustainable land management in Tonga

The "Ecosystem Restoration and Sustainable Land Management" project took its initial steps in 2021. Under this project, FAO is restoring degraded landscapes and implementing sustainable land management practices. The project's inception workshop and first project steering committee meeting were held in 2021.

Assessing the state and extent of forests in Tonga

In 2021, FAO provided technical support for Tonga's National Forest Inventory. A total of 20 staff from MAFFF, Ministry of Land and Natural Resources, and Ministry of Environment were trained and equipped to undertake the Tongan forest resources assessment (inventory and mapping).

LIVESTOCK

In the Pacific, FAO supports partners in developing and implementing practices that ensure sustainable livestock production, health and welfare. A newly introduced FAO initiative, One Health, led by the regional office for Asia and the Pacific, has been expanded in the Pacific Island region. This initiative aims to sustainably balance and build synergies between the health of people, animals and ecosystems.

Artificial insemination

In partnership with Animal Breeding Services in New Zealand, FAO introduced and conducted hands-on trainings on artificial insemination for cattle and sheep in Tonga whereby more than 30 livestock and extension officers from the Ministry and livestock council were trained. In addition, the government trained 260 farmers on cattle and sheep production and management. This activity helped improve the genetics of the locally available breeds in Tonga. As a result, government officers became confident to conduct artificial insemination in cattle without expert supervision. This artificial insemination activity for cattle has since then been expanded to the outer islands of Tonga. All offspring of the AI programme are monitored for health and production performance.

Animal welfare

While the concept of animal welfare has been known in the Pacific Island region for some time, farmers have neither fully understood nor practised it. Countries, such as the Cook Islands and Samoa, are currently preparing legislation that focuses solely on animal welfare. With FAO's support, Samoa conducted an animal welfare survey with 84 farmers in the country's two main islands: Savai'i and Upolu. This survey was combined with trainings to help raise awareness on animal welfare and its importance in livestock production as well as animal and human health. Along with the Cook Islands and Vanuatu, Samoa is in the process of developing the nation's National Animal Welfare Strategy.

African swine fever

FAO carried out key initiatives to support the Pacific countries in ASF preparedness and response in 2021. The Office helped develop awareness materials in local languages for Cook Islands, Kiribati, Samoa and Tonga, as well as conduct knowledge, attitude and practice surveys in some rural areas in Cook Islands, Samoa and Tonga, with surveys continuing in urban areas. The survey results will provide information to help ministries improve the effectiveness of their ASF messaging, awareness and training programmes. Kiribati, Micronesia (Federated States of), Samoa and Tuvalu are in the process of developing their ASF emergency preparedness and response plans.

Developing poultry management and laboratory capacity

More than 80 poultry farmers and livestock officers were trained in poultry production in Samoa, and more than 40 farmers and officers were trained in Vanuatu. Training topics ranged from poultry production to management and husbandry, as well as housing, nutrition, breeding, health, feed formulation, marketing and disaster management. These trainings helped farmers improve their current knowledge to better manage their farms.

Laboratories play a crucial role in supporting the prevention and management of health threats. Among the 14 nations and territories supported by FAO's Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands, Fiji is the only country that has a more equipped laboratory and has different laboratory stations for livestock and plants. However, laboratory capacity is often constrained due to a lack of skilled personnel, accurate and consistent laboratory methods, and quick data exchange



systems. Therefore, in 2021, FAO developed the laboratory management training tool to assess the functionality and capacity of veterinary laboratories. FAO also conducted trainings on this tool with the following laboratories in Fiji: the Fiji Veterinary Pathology Laboratory, and Biosecurity Authority of Fiji Laboratories for Plants and Animals. Through these trainings, 10 staff members from Fiji and one representative from each of the following countries; Cook Islands, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu obtained the knowledge and skills they needed to conduct their own assessments of laboratory capacity and functionality.

Virtual training center for the Pacific

A spin-off of FAO Virtual learning center for Asia and the Pacific, the Virtual learning center for the Pacific was successfully launched through two pilot courses delivered online on:

- African swine fever (ASF), and
- concept of One Health.

Both courses are FAO's first introductory and mobile friendly courses that are being offered and piloted in the Pacific islands. The ASF course brought together more than 90 participants or local experts from Animal health and biosecurity departments whereas, for One health more than 100 participants from different technical backgrounds ranging from livestock, environment, plant, public health, natural resource and disaster management came together. The outcome and lessons learnt from the two pilot courses will allow the Virtual learning center for the Pacific to improve and strengthen its capacity and delivery of trainings in 2022 and beyond

Gender reporting and empowerment

In 2021, the livestock sector produced a gender analysis report for the poultry value chain in Samoa, highlighting the poultry farming progress in the country, women's involvement, and challenges and recommendations. The recommendations will help support and strengthen women's capacity to manage their farms for Moa Samoa, or local chicken, as well as access markets, trainings and best practices.

A total of 20 women poultry farmers in Samoa engaged in an FAO global project that empowers women in food systems and strengthens the local capacities and resilience of SIDS in the agrifood sector. In Samoa, FAO partnered with Women in Business Development Inc. to successfully deliver this project. The women poultry farmers learned how to raise and manage their Moa Samoa using locally available resources for food, housing, egg laying and overall farm management. This project also linked the farmers with the Women in Business Development Inc. virtual market, where they can market their produce online.

NUTRITION AND FOOD SYSTEMS

Food-based dietary guidelines

FAO supported six countries (Fiji, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu) to develop, revise, endorse and implement their national food-based dietary guidelines (FBDGs). The FBDGs establish a basis for public food and nutrition, health and agricultural policies, and nutrition education programmes to foster healthy eating habits and lifestyles in Pacific Island populations. The FBDGs will contribute to overcoming the serious burden of malnutrition, including undernutrition, micronutrient deficiencies and obesity that Pacific Island countries face.

Support for food development and testing laboratories

Under the “Technical Capacity Building for Codex Standards and Risk Based Food Inspection” project, FAO supported a 15-day laboratory training in Kiribati, delivered remotely with eight trainees. This project aims to assist the country's Ministry of Health and Medical Services to strengthen the technical capacity of food chemical and microbiological testing laboratories by enhancing the skills of laboratory personnel. The training increased staff capacity to enhance food control and access to healthy and safe agricultural products and nutritious foods in Kiribati.

Following a request from the Government of Samoa, FAO supported the National Codex Committee in obtaining a grant from Codex Trust Fund to strengthen the National Committee's capacity.



Considering the incidence of diet related diseases in the Pacific, I strongly believe that supporting Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu over the development of National Food Based Dietary Guidelines will pay off if they are well implemented.

*Joseph Nyemah, Food and Nutrition Officer,
FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands*

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Nutrition education in schools

In 2021, FAO partnered with the British High Commission to develop a nutritional activity book for Year 1-4 school students in Samoa to teach students about health and nutrition using fun and interactive techniques.

STATISTICS

FAO work on statistics work supports collecting, analysing and disseminating accurate data to document the state of agriculture, food and the environment in Pacific Island countries and to inform decision-making.

Monitoring SDG Indicator 2.1

FAO supports Pacific Island countries to monitor and report on the SDGs linked to the food and agriculture sector, by enhancing national capacities to use tools and methodologies in gathering data and agricultural statistics. SDG 2.1 was monitored by using information collected in the most recent, or ongoing, national Household Income and Expenditure Survey. This survey includes data on food to derive indicators on food security and nutrition at the national

level, as well as for population subgroups that could inform policies aiming to fight the root causes of non-communicable diseases. In 2021, FAO collaborated with the Pacific Community (SPC) to analyse the food data and trained SPC's Statistics Division on how to use FAO methodology and tools to estimate the indicators under SDG 2.1

In addition, FAO also helped conduct a virtual training for 27 national statisticians from Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Palau, Solomon Islands and Vanuatu. The final workshop gathered national specialists from nine Pacific Island countries to discuss related findings and the way forward.

Agriculture and rural development data

In 2021, FAO began collaborating with SPC to produce tabulations and maps related to agriculture, food security and poverty from different censuses and surveys, which will support the implementation of FAO's Hand-in-Hand initiative in Solomon Islands and Kiribati. This effort will also improve the visibility of FAO's work in the subregion on food and agricultural statistics.

Census development support

FAO supported Cook Islands, Fiji, Niue, Samoa and Vanuatu in developing their national census methodology and instruments for the Census of Agriculture 2020. These efforts included strengthening the capacity of national staff to implement the censuses and disseminate the results. Census questions were prepared in broad consultations with those who will use the census information. A key goal was to harmonize census instruments for Pacific Island countries and boost the use of computer-assisted personal interviewing. The Census of Agriculture Reports from Fiji, Niue and Samoa were published in 2021. Assistance was also provided to Kiribati and Tuvalu to create, validate and analyse the agriculture module in Population and Housing Censuses. The first-ever Agriculture Statistics Reports for Kiribati and Tuvalu were also produced.

POLICY

FAO's policy programmes assist Pacific Island countries in developing and implementing inclusive, evidence-based policies related to agrifood systems. This work encompasses diverse policy initiatives, from multisectoral food security and nutrition and agrifood system transformation, to more focused technical strategies related to crops, livestock, fisheries and forestry. Through these initiatives, FAO emphasises the importance of developing national capacities for actual policy implementation and effective resource allocation, as well as enhancing stakeholders' coordination from a multisectoral perspective.

Regional policy collaboration

FAO supported the Seventh Regional Meeting of Pacific Heads of Agriculture and Forestry Services, organized in collaboration with SPC in Suva, Fiji. This biennial meeting connected country leaders and partners to reflect on key issues in agriculture and forestry. The 2021 meeting also focused on regional architecture and a regional research agenda for the coming years.

FAO PACIFIC IN ACTION

FIRST Programme

Financed by the European Union, FAO's Food and Nutrition Security Impact, Resilience, Sustainability and Transformation (FIRST) Programme acts as a broker between bodies that wish to change, such as governments; entities that can support or fund those efforts, such as the European Union; and organizations that can provide expertise, such as FAO. In the Pacific Islands, under the FIRST Programme, FAO supported agricultural and gender mainstreaming efforts in both Fiji and Solomon Islands in 2021.

IN FIJI



Gender mainstreaming

In 2021, FAO provided technical assistance in gender analysis and planning to the MoA in Fiji. This work included preparing a gender report based on disaggregated information for the 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census and contributing to the draft Gender in Agriculture Policy. This Gender in Agriculture Policy is the first sectoral gender policy in Fiji, and it is aligned with the entire government gender approach. The policy will strengthen the gender work the MoA is doing and ensure gender mainstreaming action plans are developed.

Data analysis and disaggregation

FAO also assisted the MoA of Fiji in analysing and disaggregating data by age from the 2020 Fiji Agriculture Census. The census report was officially released on 8 July 2021. The FIRST Programme assisted with data on young men and women, between 18 to 35 years old, who are involved in agricultural activities, including fisheries and forests. The data supported a study on sustainable livelihood opportunities for rural youth.

FAO also helped develop the report on “The role of diets and food systems in the prevention of obesity and non-communicable diseases in Fiji” that provides information to effectively facilitate and enhance the policy dialogue, which aimed to produce recommendations and a roadmap for policy change to prevent incidences of overweight, obesity and non-communicable diseases in Fiji



“The FIRST Program has provided Fiji with the impetus to enhance working multisectorally and improving dialogue with several government ministries, development partners, the private sector and academia, in order to shape the Fiji Policy on Food and Nutrition Security. Fiji is also benefiting from the expertise of the FIRST Policy Officers to [optimize] institutional capacity, including areas of strategic planning and coordination, monitoring and evaluation, and technical support in the food and nutrition policy space.”

*Ms Ateca Kama, Chief Dietitian and Nutritionist,
National Food and Nutrition Centre, Ministry of Health and Medical Services in Fiji*



IN SOLOMON ISLANDS

Government policy priorities

The First Programme is supporting the Solomon Islands Government in redirecting its policy priorities to review the economy by focusing its efforts on the productive sector. This work has been achieved through helping implement the Agriculture Sector Growth and Investment Plan, 2021-2030. Under this plan, actions have been taken to develop four priority concept notes: poultry farming systems, root crop research support, diversify the coconut industry, and food waste and loss. These notes were developed in consultation with the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) and will be presented to donor partners and government representatives to potentially co-fund opportunities that support MAL's needs.

Development Partners Working Group

Under the FIRST Programme, FAO and MAL in collaboration with IFAD and other partners established a Development Partners Working Group for the agriculture sector in Solomon Islands. The group's first dialogue took place in Honiara, Solomon Islands, and it combined in-person and online participation to ensure attendance from all partners. The 40 attendees included representatives from governments, international donors, development partners, the private sector, UN agencies and other relevant stakeholders, and they will meet to identify key areas where they can focus their efforts and resources for maximum impact. A regular coordination group was also established at the dialogue to support the agricultural sector in Solomon Islands..

Food system assessment

Led by the University of Wollongong and the University of Sydney, both in Australia, the FIRST Programme is participating in and providing support to an ongoing assessment of local food systems in Solomon Islands that examines the role these food systems play in improving food security and nutrition in the population. The assessment's key results will be disseminated via a research report and policy briefs.

Developing capacity and knowledge

To develop the capacity and knowledge of government officers working in agriculture, food security and nutrition, the FIRST Programme conducted a train-the-trainer session focused on post-harvesting, handling practices, as well as skills to reduce food waste and loss. The two-day training was conducted in partnership with the University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia and MAL. The 30 people who benefited from the training included representatives from MAL, as well as representatives from farmer and producer groups and market vendor associations.

The FIRST Programme also conducted a two-day training on gender mainstreaming in agriculture and the rural sector in Honiara, Solomon Islands. The training aimed to support the gender equality, analysis, planning, budgeting and monitoring capacities of government officers. A total of 27 people participated – 15 men and 12 women – as well as four facilitators. Participants came from the ministries of agriculture, fisheries, women and public services. The Solomon Islands Government's Institute of Public Administration and Management and SPC co-led the training.

Projects under the Global Environment Facility

In collaboration with other partners, FAO and GEF work together on several programmes in the region that support environmental aims and food security for Pacific Island nations and their populations.

Government and community collaboration in Kiribati

In 2021, the R2R project participated in the Kiribati Government Ministerial Week programme to showcase the project to and raise awareness about the project among the general public, including high school students. The project also engaged elderly chiefs in a community consultation on management plans in Butaritari island.

Integrated forest management in Solomon Islands

"The Integrated Forest Management (IFM) in Solomon Islands" project focuses on improving the management and sustainability of protected areas (PAs), forests and degraded lands through financing, decision-making and policy initiatives. This GEF-supported project collaborates with government ministries, tribes in five provinces, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), international NGOs and community-based organizations in Solomon Islands to implement an integrated approach to strengthen sustainable forest and PA management. The government partners are the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology; the Ministry of Forest and Research; and MAL.

In 2021, FAO continued its work in establishing a terrestrial PA network to improve ecosystem coverage, improving decision-making in managing the production landscape, and enhancing national capacities to monitor carbon stocks in natural forests and plantations, among other objectives. Major activities included establishing more than 8 000 hectares of PAs, with the total revised target of 25 000 hectares. Additional achievements included establishing the PA trust fund, conducting training on sustainable land management systems and national forest monitoring systems, beginning the road map preparation for timber legality standard development, completing the rapid biodiversity survey in three provinces, and continuing to support the establishment of two bachelor's degree courses in Environmental Science and Forestry at the Solomon Islands National University.

Transforming agroecosystems in Tonga

The R2R project in Tonga helped host an agroecosystem show in Pukotala village on Hango island in the Ha'apai group of islands. The show featured a ride in the project boat as well as a tour and demonstrations of community initiatives, including tree plantings, a community nursery and compost making. A total of 11 winners of exemplary initiatives also received prize money and certificates.

The show was hosted through FAO-led project "Integrated Lands and Agroecosystem Management System (ILAMS) R2R" in Tonga. Pukotala is the ILAMS R2R project's pilot village. The ILAMS R2R project strengthens community resilience through land tenure systems, forest management and agroecosystem approaches.

Open-source software and data in Tonga

FAO SAP developed and implemented the Solutions for Open Land Administration (SOLA). This suite of open-source software includes the SOLA Registry and SOLA Open Tenure and Community Server. The latter software is currently hosted on a community server, which a government or other partner will migrate to a local hosting source once the project ends. The project also made advancements in digitalising cadastral data for the SOLA Registry. Data on survey maps and land registration records is included. Having data digitised and available online makes it easier to access for those who want to review and use the data.

Agrotourism and restoration in Vanuatu

FAO attained several key achievements in Vanuatu in 2021. Through the Integrated Sustainable Land and Coastal Management (ISLCM) project, FAO SAP reached 10 987 beneficiaries (6 357 women and 4 630 men) at project sites. Programs were conducted in the South Pentecost, Aneityum and Tanna islands.

FAO began studies for the water taro gardens in Vanuatu to be declared part of the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System. The project team also assisted the agriecotourism association programme, which the Department of Tourism in Vanuatu manages.

FAO started the “Restoration Opportunities Assessment Methodology” initiative in Vanuatu as part of the Forest Landscape Restoration Strategy that the project developed and supported. The project also restored the following landscapes in 2021: 100 hectares in South Pentecost, 25 hectares in Nusumetu and 25 hectares in Aneityum. In addition, 12 000 seedlings were distributed to community nurseries, and 250 basic agriculture baskets and 250 basic seed packages were distributed.



“Our tribe is very supportive of the [GEF] project as we also want to conserve part of our forest. We have seen the negative impact of logging in the surrounding tribal land, thus decided to work with the project team to conserve our land and forest. We will continue to work with the team to realise our dream of having our forest gain PA [protected area] status in the next year or so.”

Tribal Chief, Choiseul

Developing Local Capacity and Knowledge in Tonga

The Lake Letas, on Gaua Island, Conservancy Area Management Plan was finalized and registered in 2021 as a guide for stakeholders on how to conserve this area. Several trainings were organized in 2021, including sessions on the Farm Field School approach conducted with 1 345 stakeholders (724 men and 621 women) and 450 beneficiaries (250 women and 200 men) who were trained in how to plant, clean soil and use natural fertilizers to improve their food security to grow their own food for a diverse diet. Another training was hosted with a local community committee representing project sites, reaching 235 people (145 men and 90 women). Other capacity development sessions were held on project planning, implementation and reporting procedures. These events helped build local capacity and knowledge so the individuals trained can properly implement the skills and approaches they learned in their own work and communities.



“FAO support for this project provided skills for women in forestry communities to undertake agroforestry-nursery management, species selection, woodlot management and harvesting of non-timber forest products to support livelihoods. Women are the key to livelihood recovery after COVID-19 effects in many of these communities. The project and its outputs will serve as a model for the [entirety of] Vanuatu.”

Aunty Klera William, Aneityum Island, Anelkouat



Projects under the Green Climate Fund

FAO SAP currently has three pipelines through the Green Climate Fund with Fiji, Samoa and Tonga, in which FAO is the accredited entity. This work includes one planned readiness proposal for Samoa. In addition, there are two regional pipelines where FAO is the executing entity. In 2021, the concept note on Forest and Landscape Restoration for climate benefits and resilience in Fiji: providing long-term incentives for Restoration/Afforestation, Sustainable Forest Management, Protected Areas and Livelihood Opportunities was finalised and submitted to the Green Climate Fund Secretariat for review.



ONLINE ADVOCACY AND ENGAGEMENT

FAO PACIFIC WEBPAGE

In 2021, FAO SAP subpages saw

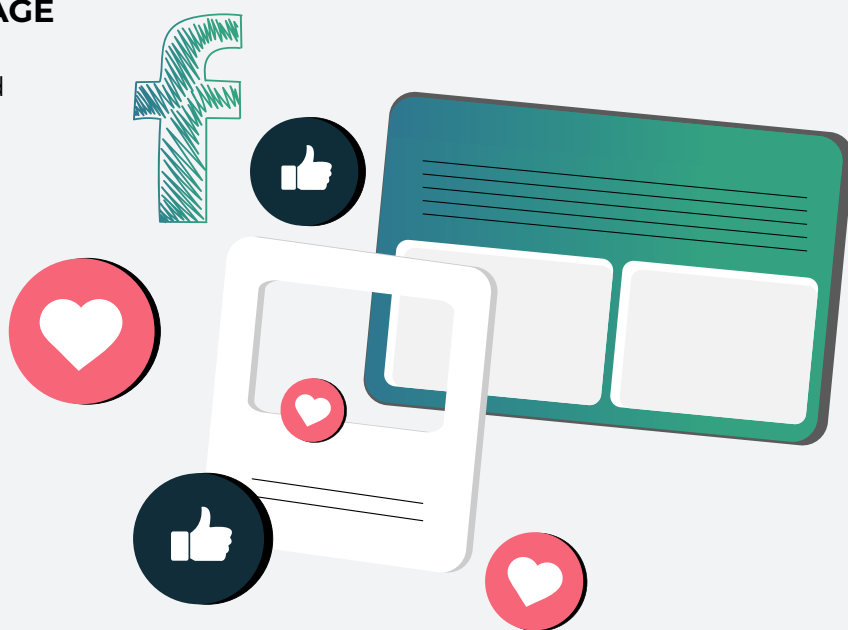
2 822 page views.



FAO PACIFIC FACEBOOK PAGE

The FAO Pacific Facebook page had **708** followers with **681** likes in 2021.

The page reached **11 107** individual viewers with **755** visits and **538** new likes.



FAO PACIFIC TWITTER HANDLE

At the end of 2021, the FAO Pacific Twitter account, @FAOPacific, had **2 800** followers. @FAOPacific had **6 630** visits and obtained **234** new followers in 2021.

Tweets on the page were viewed **46 200** times.



2021 IN NUMBERS



70 active Pacific subregional and national projects representing a total budget of
USD **49.3 million**

16 active global and regional projects with Pacific coverage representing a global budget of
USD **161.8 million**

45 projects under FAO's Technical Cooperation Programme

41 projects funded under FAO's Trust Fund scheme
with **Canada, the European Union, Japan and the Republic of Korea** as key donors

13 projects funded by Global Environment Facility

KEY PARTNERS

Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals towards ending hunger, poverty and realizing prosperity for all require concerted efforts from all stakeholders. FAO Subregional Office for the Pacific Islands works in partnership with numerous donors and partners to advance food and nutrition security and promote sustainable and inclusive food systems.

Pacific Governments and their Ministries

Cook Islands

- Ministry of Agriculture,
- Ministry of Business, Trade and Investment Board,
- Ministry of Cook Islands Investment Corporation,
- Ministry of Cultural Development,
- Ministry of Education,
- Ministry of Finance & Economic Development,
- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Infrastructure & Planning,
- Ministry of Marine Resources,
- Ministry of National Environment Services,
- Ministry of Outer Islands Special projects,
- Ministry of the Outer Islands,
- Ministry of Tourism,
- Ministry of Transport,
- Seabed Minerals and Natural Resources.

Fiji

- Ministry for Forestry ,
- Ministry for Economy, Civil Service, Communications, Housing and Community Development,
- Ministry for Education, Heritage and Arts,
- Ministry for Rural, Maritime Development and Disaster Management,
- Ministry for Fisheries,
- Ministry for Employment, Productivity and Industrial Relations and Youth and Sports,
- Ministry for Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation,
- Ministry for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment,
- Ministry for Health and Medical Services,
- Ministry for Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport.

Federated States of Micronesia

- Department of Foreign Affairs,
- Department of Resource & Development,
- Department of Health and Social Affairs,
- Department of Education,
- Department of Environment, Climate Change & Emergency Management,
- National Fisheries Corporation,
- National Oceanic Resource Management Authority (NORMA).

Kiribati

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration,
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Development,
- Ministry of Infrastructure and Sustainable Energy (MISE),
- Ministry of Education,
- Ministry of Environment, Lands and Agricultural Development (MELAD),
- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources Development,
- Ministry of Health and Medical Services,
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Cooperatives (MCIC),
- Ministry for Women, Youth, Sports and Social Affairs (MWYSSA).

Nauru

- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Resources,
- Ministry of Culture & Tourism,
- Ministry of Customs,
- Ministry of Finance and Sustainable Development,
- Ministry of Fisheries and Marine Resources,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Island Development & Industry,
- Ministry of Women's Affairs,
- Ministry of Youth Affairs,

Niue

- Ministry of Finance, Customs and Revenue and Government Assets,
- Ministry of Private Sector Development,
- Ministry of Tourism,
- Ministry of Meteorological Services and Climate Change,
- Ministry of the Environment,

- Ministry of Youth and Sports,
- Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries,
- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Women's Affairs,
- Ministry of Justice, Lands and Survey,
- Ministry of Education.

Palau

- Ministry of Finance,
- Ministry of Health and Human Services,
- Ministry of Education,

- Ministry of Human Resources, Culture, Tourism & Development,
- Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, and the Environment.

Republica of the Marshall Islands

- Ministry-in-Assistance to the President and Environment,
- Ministry of Health and Human Services,
- Ministry of Education, Sports, and Training,
- Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce,

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,
- Ministry of Transportation, Communications, and Information Technology,
- Ministry of Finance, Banking, and Postal Services,
- Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs.

Samoa

- Ministry of Women Community and Social Development,
- Ministry of Education Sports and Culture,
- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade,

- Ministry of Finance,
- Ministry Natural Resources and Environment,
- Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labour.
- Ministry of the Prime Ministry and Cabinet,

Solomon Islands

- Ministry for Finance and Treasury,
- Ministry for National Development Planning and Aid Coordination,
- Ministry for Education and Human Resources,
- Ministry for Health and Medical Services,
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs and External Trade,
- Ministry for Commerce, Industry, Labour and Immigration.
- Ministry for Culture and Tourism,

- Ministry for Agriculture and Livestock Development,
- Ministry for Forestry and Research,
- Ministry for Fisheries and Marine Resources,
- Ministry for Provincial Government and Institutional Strengthening,
- Ministry for Women, Youth, Children and Family Affairs,
- Ministry for Rural Development,
- Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change,
- Disaster Management, Conservation and Meteorology.

Tonga

- Ministry for Education & Training,
- Ministry for Meteorology, Energy, Information, Disaster Management,
- Environment, Communications and Climate Change
- Ministry for Public Enterprises,
- Ministry of Finance,
- Ministry for Revenue and Customs,

- Ministry for Lands and Natural Resources,
- Ministry for Foreign Affairs,
- Ministry for Tourism,
- Ministry for Health,
- Ministry for Trade and Economic Development,
- Ministry for Agriculture, Food, Forests,
- Ministry for Fisheries.

Tuvalu

- Ministry of Fisheries & Trade,
- Ministry of Finance,
- Ministry for Justice, Communication & Foreign Affairs,
- Ministry for Education, Youth & Sports,

- Ministry for Public Utilities & Environment.
- Ministry for Health, Social Welfare & Gender,
- Ministry for Home Affairs & Agriculture,
- Ministry for Transport, Energy & Tourism.

Vanuatu

- Ministry for Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry, Fisheries and Biosecurity,
- Ministry of Climate Change,
- Ministry of Education and Training,
- Ministry of Finance and Economic Management,
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade,

- Ministry of Health,
- Ministry of Land and Natural Resources,
- Ministry of Tourism, Trade, Commerce and Ni-Vanuatu Business,
- Ministry of Youth Development and Training.

Tokelau

- Ministry for Finance,
- Ministry for Health,
- Ministry for Education,
- Ministry for Climate Change Agency,
- Ministry for Economic Development, Natural Resources & Environment (including Agriculture),
- Ministry for Telecommunications,
- Ministry for Fisheries Management Agency.

Pacific development organizations

- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) - Fiji,
- Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA) - Vanuatu,
- British High Commission - Samoa,
- Bureau of Marine Resources - Palau,
- Eden Hope Foundation,
- Institute of Public Administration and Management - Solomon Islands,
- Nasi Tuan,
- Pacific Aviation Safety Organisation,
- Pacific Climate Change Centre
- Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP),
- Pacific Islands Food Revolution
- Pacific Islands Forum (PIF) Secretariat,
- Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency (FFA),
- Pacific Power Association,
- Public Service Commission (Tonga),
- Santo Sunset Environment Network,
- South Pacific Travel Organisation (SPTO),
- The Nature Conservancy (Palau),
- The Pacific Community (SPC),
- The South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP),
- The University of the South Pacific (USP),
- Tonga Community Development Trust,
- Vanuatu Red Cross Society.

International organizations

- International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD),
- International Labour Organization (ILO),
- International Monetary Fund Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (IMF),
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU),
- Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS),
- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),
- UN International Strategy for Disaster Reduction Subregional Office for the Pacific (UNISDR),
- UN Office for the Coordination of the Humanitarian Affairs in the Pacific (UNOCHA),
- UN Secretariat (UNS),
- United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF),
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),
- United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTD),
- United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS),
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP),
- United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women),
- United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP),
- United Nations ESCAP Subregional Office for the Pacific (UN-ESCAP),
- United Nations Human Settlement Programme Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (UN-Habitat),
- United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS),
- United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA),
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC),
- United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV),
- World Food Programme (WFP),
- World Health Organization (WHO).

Multidonor partners

- European Union,
- Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP),
- Global Environment Facility (GEF),
- Green Climate Fund (GCF),
- Global Ghost Gear Initiative.

Donor countries

- Australia,
- Belgium,
- Canada,
- Germany,
- Italy,
- Japan,
- New Zealand,
- Republic of Korea,
- United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,
- United States of America.

Academia

- Massey University, New Zealand,
- University of the South Pacific (USP),
- University of Sydney, Australia,
- University of the Sunshine Coast in Queensland, Australia,
- University of Wollongong, Australia.

Contacts

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