The Wildlife Conservation Society works to significantly increase the marine area under effective management in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea. The countries concerned are characterised by rapidly growing and modernising populations that are driving increased demands for natural resource extraction, which threatens marine species and ecosystems that underpin the livelihoods of millions of people. Resource commercialisation, loss of traditional knowledge, weak centralised governance structures and, on top of this, the effects of human-forced climate change present unprecedented challenges to Melanesian livelihoods and biodiversity. The Wildlife Conservation Society, along with local government, community and private sector partners, addresses these threats through participatory activities designed to establish robust spatial management systems, including networks of marine protected areas and locally-managed marine areas, as well as sustainable use of marine resources to improve coastal livelihoods. This will lead to a doubling of effectively managed marine area in Fiji, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea by 2021 and contribute to the long-term goal of enduring, expanded networks of managed ocean spaces, within which marine resources are sustainably utilised and conserved.

"Melanesian cultures all share the value of environmental stewardship. The Wildlife Conservation Society partners with local government and communities to advance biodiversity conservation and well-being of people depending on marine resources."
KEY TARGETS

Newly created MPAs: 26,312 km²
Effectively managed MPAs: 451 km²
Number of beneficiaries: 176,000

ACTIVITIES & AREAS OF WORK

MPA GOVERNANCE
- Creating protected areas and sustainable use zones
- Management plans adaptive to climate change
- Monitoring, control and enforcement
- Training of protected area staff
- Bottom-up management/Co-management approaches

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS
- Job training
- Reduction of post-harvest loss in fisheries
- Economic empowerment of women
- Initiatives to increase value added in supply chains

HABITAT CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION
- Protection of mangroves
- Protection of coral reefs
- Protection of seagrass beds

SPECIES CONSERVATION/SUSTAINABLE FISHERIES
- Data collection on fisheries
- Co-management of fisheries
- Fisheries management

Published by Blue Action Fund, January 2019