



**PACIFIC BLUE
FOUNDATION**
Sustaining Reef Communities

An aerial photograph of a tropical island. The island is covered in dense green vegetation and is surrounded by a shallow lagoon with clear, turquoise water. The water transitions to a deeper blue as it extends into the open ocean. A small white boat is visible in the lower part of the image, leaving a white wake. The sky is blue with scattered white clouds.

PACIFIC BLUE FOUNDATION'S MISSION

Pacific Blue Foundation provides basic research, education, encouragement and dissemination of sustainable practices in coastal regions with the ultimate goal of preserving the biological and cultural diversity of the Pacific Region.



PACIFIC BLUE FOUNDATION'S STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES

- Local clans and tribes are empowered to preserve and revitalize their cultural way of life so that traditional connections and uses of the coastal and marine resources can be conserved for future generations.
- Seascape-scale, locally managed marine and coastal areas are designated and implemented to remedy ecosystem degradation using a collaborative, cross sectoral approach to achieve:
 - ecosystem integrity
 - biodiversity conservation
 - sustainable natural resources
 - community development.
- Knowledge, skills and capacity of the maritime communities are enriched, empowering future custodians to sustainably develop their communities and manage Fiji's natural resources.
- Community wellbeing, equality and resilience achieved through improved living standards, diversified alternative livelihood and shared responsibility which follow traditional governance structures.



Veitau waqa 2019 - PBF President Greg Mitchell with the next generation of boat makers.

MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

It is my pleasure to honor the hard work of the small dedicated team and the collaborations they are building with communities, government, academics, non-government organizations (NGOs) and commercial stakeholders to improve cultural and biological conservation in Fiji.

Our primary focus in 2019 was achieving biological conservation by facilitating sustainable economic and natural resource utilization in the Beqa Lagoon and Lau Islands. During this year we have also focused on supporting sustainable development in communities on small islands who do not have access to power, water, sewer, transportation, education and economic infrastructure as that of the mainland in Fiji.

PBF has maintained the lead NGO role for the Beqa Lagoon Initiative. The initiative has expanded to 10 villages located on two islands in the Beqa Lagoon. For the Lau Islands, we have partnered with lead NGO, Conservation International, on the Lau Seascape Initiative.

These small island communities are more vulnerable to climate change impacts including bleaching of their coral reef ecosystems, village inundation from sea-level rise, the increased intensity tropical storm intensity and the globalization of their marine resources that are being harvested unsustainably. It is inspiring to see the willingness and enthusiasm of communities as they unite to protect their natural and cultural values for the benefit of future generations.

In 2019 PBF hosted the 10th annual *Veiutau waqa - the boat lives* traditional sailing canoe races in Suva Harbor. The knowledge of constructing, sailing and navigating the traditional sailing canoes has been passed down as a cultural treasure over thousands of years. Since 2009 when PBF set out to conserve the cultural knowledge of traditional sailing canoes, more than 10 smaller Camakau and four larger Drua have been constructed compared to prior to 2009 when there were none under construction and only a handful of canoes were operating on the remote island of Fulaga in Eastern Lau Islands. The sailing canoes operated by our Fijian collaborators were the inspiration for the animation of the boats in Disney's Moana and two museum quality Drua have been constructed.

The *Ada Yeti* was presented to the Queen of England for her 90th birthday and one served as a key part of the Los Angeles County Museum for their exhibit "*Fiji: Art & Life in the Pacific*" that opened November, 2019. PBF is very proud to have contributed to keeping this living cultural knowledge alive in the hearts and spirits of the Fijian community.

In 2020 PBF will continue to seek to create sustainable local communities on small islands in Fiji for conservation of both cultural and biological diversity. This will involve strengthening the unity of villages and reinvigorating local governance and traditions.

B. Greg Mitchell

PRESIDENT AND BOARD CHAIR





Caption

MESSAGE FROM COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR

Progress on community-based sustainable economic development and conservation of cultural and biological diversity requires a sensitive integration between traditional Fijian community governance and culture and the structure and function of the modern Fijian government and economy.

Many initiatives fail in Fiji due to a lack of understanding and respect of the traditional Fijian culture and governance. To provide the best chance for success of the Lau Seascape Initiative (LSI) (led by Conservation International) and the Beqa Lagoon Initiative (BLI) (led by PBF), I have assisted the NGOs, government and commercial stakeholders in creating robust dialog with the Fijian communities. In parallel my role is also to ensure the Fijian communities maintain internal respect for their traditional governance and culture.

As a Paramount Chief from the Lau Islands, this role is linked to our traditional approach of managing complex challenges and change. Climate change, globalization of marine natural resources and inefficient infrastructure are forcing change upon the communities on small islands in Fiji. Adapting to those changes and thriving in a sustainable future will require cohesive commitment of the community to implement strategic plans

In 2019 PBF had excellent success in bringing together the communities of Beqa Lagoon by ensuring a patient and engaged approach in collaboration with our partner Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA). Separately, PBF has allowed me to play a pivotal role in support of Conservation International for their LSI that led to a series of workshops including the Chiefs of all villages and islands in Lau Province to create a strategic plan focused on natural resource conservation and management. Through our process of community-first we have built forward with a strong dialog between the communities, the government's provincial offices and the commercial stakeholders aimed at a collective vision for conservation of cultural and biological diversity and actionable strategic plans for both the LSI and the BLI.

Roko Sau Josefa Cinavilakeba (Roko Sau)

COMMUNITY AND GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR



Caption

THE 2019 TEAM



B. Greg Mitchell
President and Chair of the
Board of Directors



**Roko Josefa
Cinavilakeba (Roko Sau)**
Community and Government
Relations Director



Sefano M. Katz
Project Manager



Kerry Donovan
Cultural Conservation
Coordinator



Eleanor Brighton
Project Officer

Mary Anderson
Accounting Manager



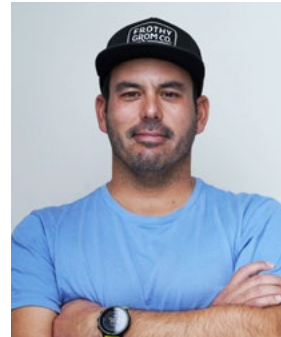
Raquel Carter
Strategic Projects and
Communications Advisor



Robert Edgar
Engineering Advisor



Alisi Nainoca
Design & Marketing Advisor



Cristian Gorrino
Technological Advisor



**Apenisa (Ben)
Rakanace**
Cultural Conservation Advisor



Davey Kline
Scientific Advisor

THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

1000+ Crown of thorn star fish removed from fringing reef systems

Our work with local communities has resulted in the removal, of more than 1000 crown of thorn star fish (COTS) from important fringing reef habitats around Beqa island making way for coral regeneration.

200 coral recruits transplanted from the nursery area to fringing coral reefs.

2000+ mangrove seedlings grown

Seedlings have been planted by local communities of Beqa Island to stabilize the coastal zone and restore fish habitat

Tribes of Beqa Lagoon Seascape united

We have facilitated the union of nine tribes of Beqa Lagoon have united to form a vision for the custodianship of Beqa Lagoon, its resources and its cultural and biodiversity values.

Green Schools Program launched

Through partnerships with the local schools, PBF has launched the green schools program to promote community sustainability and health.

Eco-tourism partnerships formalized

By formalizing a partnership with the Beqa Lagoon Resort, locals have been employed to deliver eco-tourism activities including COTS control activities.

Lau Seascape Strategic Plan finalized and published.

Through the strategic and cultural insights of PBF's paramount Chief Roko Sau Josefa Cinavilakeba, the Strategic Plan for the Lau Seascape Initiative for finalized and launched.

Hosted the 10th Veitau waqa
- the boat lives event

The annual Veitau waqa - the boat lives traditional sailing canoe races were held and featured two Drua (double hulled canoes), in addition to the smaller Camakau that have participated since the inception in 2010.

Lau Seascape Initiative and Beqa Lagoon Initiative strategic plans created

In collaboration with communities, government, other NGOs and stakeholders strategic plans for both the Lau Seascape and Beqa Lagoon Initiatives were created as the foundation for future work in both regions.

Through the strategic and cultural insights of PBF's paramount Chief Roko Sau, Roko Josefa Cinavilakeba, the Strategic Plan for the Lau Seascape Initiative was finalized, published and launched.

2019 PERFORMANCE - CULTURAL INTEGRITY

Cultural integrity

Goals established for managing fishing grounds, island environments and traditional culture

In May 2019, a consortium of leaders of Beqa Island took an unprecedented step in the union of all Chiefs and natural resource management committee delegates of Beqa Island to set a joint a vision and goals for protecting natural resources and community livelihoods.

The consortium opened with a word of prayer followed by the ceremonial protocol, the two leaders, Tui Raviravi and Tui Sawau acknowledged all parties and representatives attending. The opening speeches highlighted the Vunilagi (Vision): 'Ko Beqa me I lololo ni yaubula; (Beqa is the storage for resources and livelihoods). This event was pivotal in paving a future for tribal collaboration in the quest to manage natural resources, protect biodiversity and preserve culture.



2019 PERFORMANCE - CULTURAL INTEGRITY



Traditional custodian natural resource management plans for Beqa Lagoon seascape

The Beqa Lagoon Initiative has facilitated the establishment of community led Natural Resource Management (NRM) Committees at Beqa Island who have made headway in the development of NRM action plans to address key threats to the environment and community livelihoods. Nine villages across the Beqa Lagoon seascape participated in workshops to collaboratively work through traditional governance arrangements, cultural value preservation, waste management, overfishing and climate mitigation and adaption. These community workshops were supported by a collaboration of partners, facilitated by PBF including Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area, Rewa Provincial Office, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and traditional leaders. The formation of NRM Committees and NRM action plans has provided the foundation for the implementation of solutions to manage the natural resources of the Beqa Lagoon Seascape.



2019 PERFORMANCE - CULTURAL INTEGRITY

Cultural mapping - Lau Seascape

PBF in partnership with Conservation International, facilitating cultural mapping of the Lau Seascape involving four islands (Moala, Matuku, Totoya and Vanuavatu) and twenty villages. In alignment with the Lau Seascape Strategic Plan the objective of the mapping exercise was to collect, analyse and record data, synthesize cultural values that overlap with biodiversity protection and prioritize resource management measures at a seascape scale.



2019 PERFORMANCE - CULTURAL INTEGRITY

Veitau Waqa 2019 - the boat lives...

Pacific Blue Foundation, in collaboration with seven Fiji Government ministries and local groups held the 10th annual 'Veitau Waqa-the boat lives' event featuring races of Camakau and Drua traditional sailing canoes. This annual PBF event has been a success since 2010 and has the ultimate purpose of keeping alive the Fijian cultural endeavor of building, sailing and navigating the traditional canoes. Knowledge is deeply rooted in the stories of all Fijians who still refer to names of the four boats-Roqovoka, Kaunitoni, Kaunitera, Duiyabaki-which carried the original ancestors to Fiji. To encourage the continuation of the knowledge being passed from the elders to the youth, PBF also supports the bakanawa event, a race of small model canoes built by children.



2019 PERFORMANCE - MARINE AND COASTAL CONSERVATION

Marine and coastal conservation

Lau Seascape Strategic Plan

Lau Seascape Strategic Plan was launched in November 2019 by former Fijian Ambassador to the USA, and the Pacific Islands Development Forum's Secretary General, Mr Solo Mara. The Strategic Plan captures the vision values and aspirations of the Masi ni Vanua o Lau (traditional leaders) to guide future conversation activities in the province. The Lau Seascape Initiative, with the assistance of PBF, is building a coalition among government, local communities, private sector and civil societies to improve natural resource governance in the Province of Lau focused both on terrestrial and marine resource management. A key focus in 2019 was achieving effective governance across sectors and at all levels, from local to national and regional.

The Lau Seascape provides a platform to apply integrated natural resource management at seascape scale, across 52,205 square kilometers or 4% of Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) from ridge to reef to ocean on archipelagic areas with high climate vulnerability. The collaboration has promoted comprehensive management of natural resources at multiple levels of governance by focusing on the achievement of nine essential elements including, though not limited to ecosystem- based management, maintenance and restoration of critical habitats and ecosystems; human wellbeing benefit and sustainable financing and market mechanisms.

PBF contributed to the development of the strategic plan by our support of the traditional leadership by Paramount Chief Roko Sau, Roko Josefa Cinvilakeba. A series of community and partner workshops were convened in 2019 that included all the chiefs and their respective Yaubula (natural resources) managers for all villages and Islands in Lau Province. Importantly this final workshop where the strategy was refined, represented the first convening of all chiefs of Lau aimed at creating a cohesive plan for natural resource management. The workshop leading to the launch of the strategic plan was the last event that was held at the building of the Great Council of Chiefs (Bose Levu Vakaturaga), before it was burned down less than a month later.

To support the implementation of the strategic plan, PBF in partnership with Conservation international has gained the support of the Blue Nature Alliance to facilitate the establishment of governance arrangements needed to implement the Lau Seascape Strategic Plan that was released in November, 2019.



Credit: Conservation International



2019 PERFORMANCE - MARINE AND COASTAL CONSERVATION



Community and ecotourism coral restoration

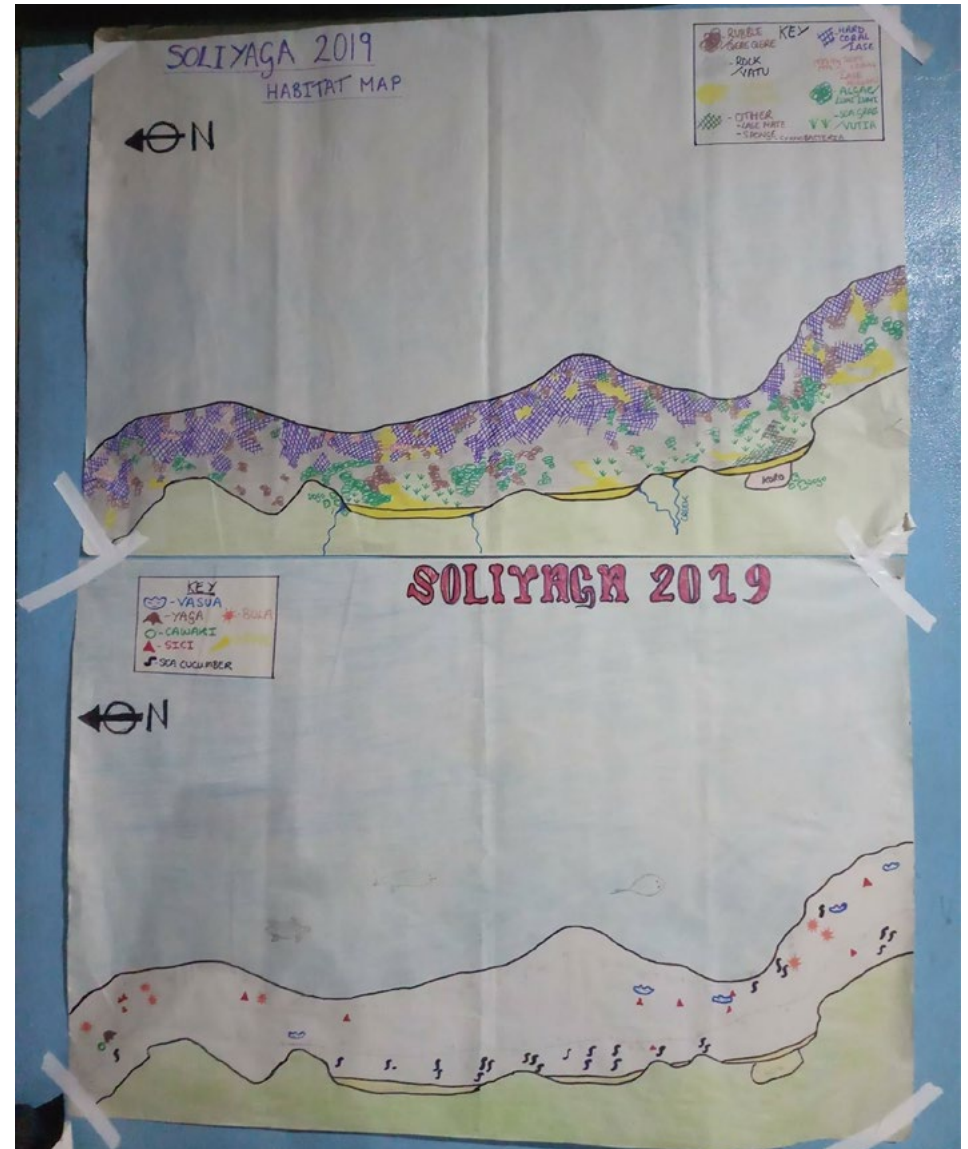
Stemming from PBF's partnership with Beqa Lagoon Resort, community members have been leading ecotourism activities that enhance visitor experience and providing sustainable livelihoods while contributing to marine habitat restoration activities. A large focus of this program was on the removal 500+ crown of thorn starfish (COTS; coral predators) following an outbreak. Local guides have been trained in COTS ecology and safe removal techniques that provide skills sets needed for long-term COTS control in the fringing reefs nearby respective villages. In addition, PBF established a coral nursery resulting the transplantation of over 200 coral recruits to the fringing reef systems by local community members and visitors.



2019 PERFORMANCE - MARINE AND COASTAL CONSERVATION

Protected areas - New Tabu (no-take) sites for Beqa Lagoon

Pacific Blue Foundation supported the village of Soliyaga to map marine habitats and associated resources which has enabled them to set up protected areas and management plans. Soliyaga is one of the villages on Beqa Island that is wholly reliant on marine resources for sustenance and livelihood, in turn reinforcing community connection to the sea. The men and women in this village are highly skilled fishermen, heading out to the reef multiple times a day to collect fish and shellfish for their food and income security. Coupled with this reliance on marine resources is the community's drive to conserve the marine environment for future generations. Pacific Blue Foundation assisted by involving the community in reef health assessments through field based and coral ecology training. Data has been collected that has enabled the community to spatially understand where overfishing has occurred indicated by the absence of large predatory fish and low abundance of invertebrates such as giant clams. With this information, the community have been able to map and establish Tabu areas which are no take zones to allow marine resources to replenish. With a community management plan in place, facilitated by PBF, the community are committed to restoring the health and balance of natural resources and reducing reliance on fishing on the outer barrier reef.



2019 PERFORMANCE - MARINE AND COASTAL CONSERVATION

Mangrove restoration program

Pacific Blue Foundation has worked with five villages of Beqa Island to develop and implement a mangrove restoration program. With PBF's guidance, the community understands the importance of mangrove habitats for coastal zone management, recruitment of fish stocks and climate change resilience. PBF provided specific training and mangrove seed harvesting, site selection and establishment of mangrove nurseries. The Natural Resource Management Committees of Rukua, Naiseuseu, Naceva, Dakuibeqa and Soliyaga villages have established mangrove nurseries and have involved children and youth to plant seedlings from the nurseries in degraded mangrove habitats nearby their villages.

Over 2000 mangrove seedlings are grown in the nurseries, and about 400 were out-planted. With a growing understanding of the importance and benefits of mangrove forests, more villages in Beqa are moving forward with their mangrove restoration program.



2019 PERFORMANCE - ENHANCING EDUCATION

Enhancing education

COTS Research (throughout)

PBF has partnered with the Pacific Centre for Environment & Sustainable Development (PACE-SD) and the University of the South Pacific to use Beqa Lagoon as a study site to investigate whether there is a strong correlation between the sea water temperature and COTS fecundity. This research is important as it may provide a predictor for when management efforts will be most successful. The research project has recruited research providing training in research and survey techniques.



Enhancing Education and Community Development

PBF has collaborated with Blue Whale Adventures to train local communities and local fishers in the efficient use of fuels, mechanical maintenance and repair. This has resulted in monetary saving, reduced use of fuel, reduced greenhouse gas emissions and a cleaner local air quality. As part of the Beqa Lagoon Initiative, Blue Whale Adventures delivered guided training and workshops in preventative maintenance, trouble shooting and fixing of mechanical appliances in Rukua village, Beqa Island, led by Captain Robert Edgar.



2019 PERFORMANCE - ENHANCING EDUCATION

Ocean Stewardship Program

Pacific Blue Foundation, in collaboration with Rukua village, the Uto ni Yalo Trust and the International School of Suva (ISS), have formed an Ocean Stewardship Program. This Program is focused on bringing together youth from the local villages with 50 ISS students for collaborative conservation engagements such as solid waste management through joint beach clean-ups, mangrove restoration and traditional story telling of past practices. Friendships were formed and educational benefits were gained by local youths and ISS students. The Program has been established as an ongoing annual initiative.



Sustainable communities

Organic fertilizer production

PBF has supported the villages of Soliyaga, Lalati, Nawaisomom and Raviravi of Beqa Island to produce their own organic fertiliser for their farms and gardens, after building their first village-level composting facility – a three compartment model measuring about nine square meters, with a 3 cubic meter composting capacity.

This application aims to apply sustainable farming practices that entail organic farming methods, horticultural diversification and achieve increased community nutritional and economic benefit for Beqa Lagoon.

Farmers have a costly demand for fertilisers, and creating their own organic and locally produced fertiliser will help improve soil and produce state and lower operational costs.



2019 PERFORMANCE - SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Organic Farming Program

PBF, together with our partners Loving Islands had engaged the communities of Beqa Island to fulfill their vision of transforming Beqa to an Organic Island.

Training workshops were held in 2019 and focused on the production of organic products and added-value opportunities utilizing the organic fertilizers by utilizing locally harvested and household waste materials, to create an alternative to commercial inorganic and synthetic fertilizers. During these workshops, the communities of Lalati, Nawaisomo, Raviravi and Naiseuseu were immersed with knowledge of organic practices and awareness behind the hazards of conventional farming practices.

With this knowledge, the villagers will be able to construct their own composting facilities and Go Organic.



Animal welfare program with SPCA (March and October)

Feral and neglected dogs and cats are a significant problem for native wildlife on Beqa Island and a threat to community health potentially spreading communicable diseases. PBF collaborated with the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Fiji, Vetopia Inc, Lawaki Beach House and overseas volunteers to sterilize, vaccinate and treat cats and dogs on Beqa Island. The team comprised of veterinarians, nurses, technicians from Fiji, USA, Australia, England, Poland and New Zealand.

The project was undertaken under the Communities Compliant in Legislation and Animal Welfare (CLAW) program, and is part of the national One Health initiative to address the growing stray and neglected animal crisis in Fiji.

Overall, over 150 dogs and cats were treated during two programs held in March and October.



PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

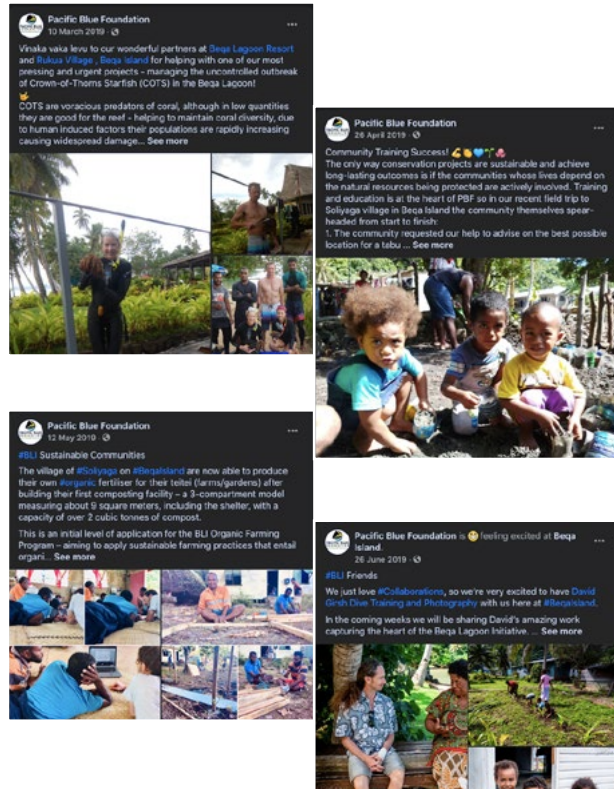
Social media posts



56 (Facebook)



7 (Instagram)



Newspaper articles



6 (Fiji Times)



International conferences



1 (Pacific Islands Development Forum leadership summit and conference)



FINANCIAL REPORT

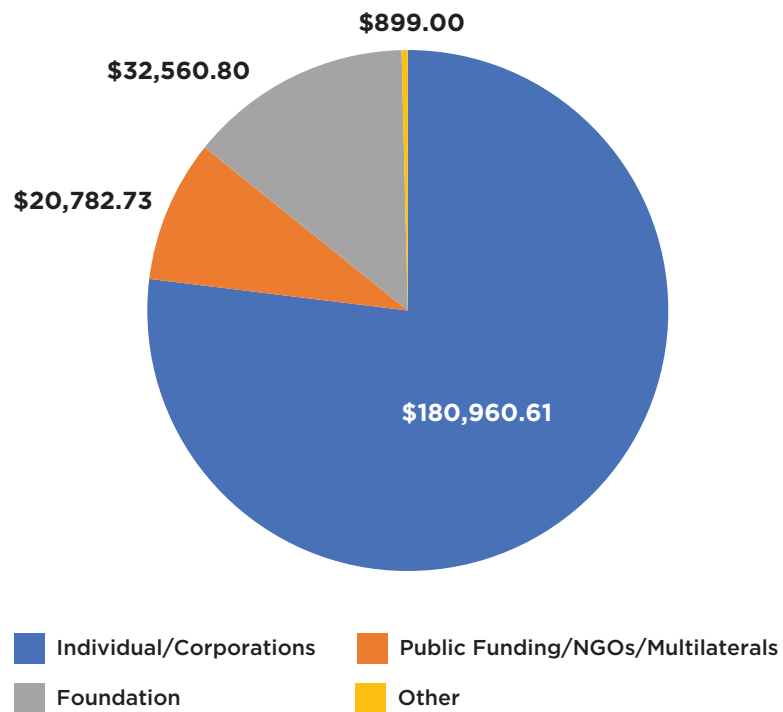
Consolidated financial summary

Revenue \$235,203.14

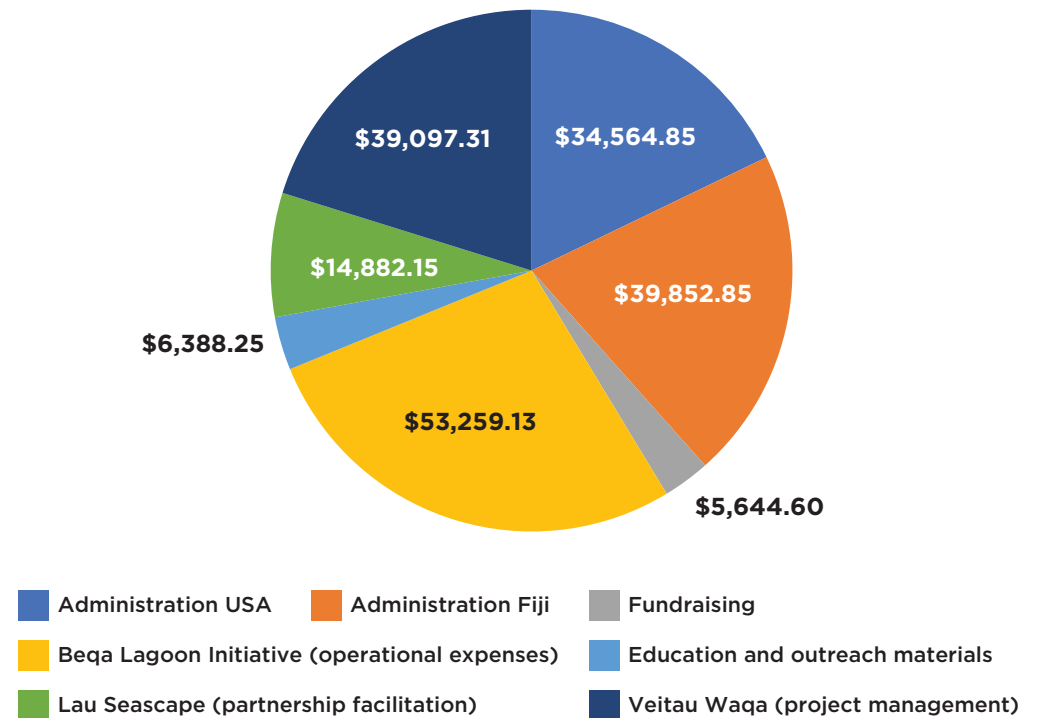
Expenses \$193,689.14

Surplus (carried forward to 2020) \$41,514.00

Revenue - 2019 (USD)



Expenses - 2019 (USD)



FINANCIAL REPORT

Grants summary

Project name	Funds received	Funding body	Funding term
Community-based fertilizer production from Crown-of-Thorns Starfish and seaweeds	\$9780.56 USD (\$20,000FJ)	Pacific Islands Development Forum	December 2019 - March 2021
Enhancing coral reef resilience and community nutrition through Crown-of-Thorns Starfish control - Phase 1	\$23,500 USD (\$49,474 FJ)	Conservation, Food and Health Foundation	June 2019 - August 2020
The Beqa Lagoon Initiative - Solution-based conservation	\$13,439 USD (\$27,483 FJ)	Australian High Commission Direct Aid Program	January - December 2019
The Beqa Lagoon Initiative - Scaling up sustainable integrated ecosystem-based management plans	\$43,465 USD (\$88,880 FJ)	UNDP/GEF Small Grant Program	September 2017 - December 2020

SUPPORTERS



PARTNERS



The Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA) Network

