



PACIFIC BLUE
FOUNDATION
Sustaining Reef Communities



PACIFIC BLUE FOUNDATION | 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

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.





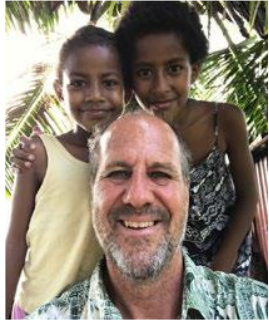
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

Pacific Blue Foundation emerged out of 2019 with significant momentum having hired several new staff, been selected for several grants to carry out our work, and with a 2019-2024 strategic plan following a group retreat in Fiji in August 2019. In 2019 there was excellent progress in community consultations, and we had completed an important survey of commercial tourism stakeholders operating in the Beqa Lagoon region as part of our strategy to integrate the interests of the indigenous communities and commercial stakeholders in creating marine protected areas and improved sustainable livelihoods. We started 2020 with significant optimism. However, the first days of 2020 brought news that the highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 respiratory virus was spreading out of China to many locations globally. Although we made good progress in the first quarter of 2020, by the beginning of March Fiji was following the global lead in shutting down the economy, banning international travel and restricting travel within the country. Many workers left the urban areas and employment on the main islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu to return to their home villages, adding pressure to local resources and bringing the virus into more isolated regions. Sadly, there was a significant toll of suffering in 2020 and significant evidence of increased fishing effort for food security. Like so many other organizations globally, the last 3 quarters of 2020 were spent in isolation with minimal in-person activities and an inability to carry out our main projects. Despite these challenges faced by all during the COVID shutdown, our momentum from 2019 and effective execution the first quarter of 2020 did lead to significant accomplishments and the start of several important initiatives described in this report.

B. Greg Mitchell

President, and Board Chair

THE TEAM



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



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



Sefano M. Katz
Project Manager



Isimeli Loganimoce
Project Officer



Ulamiala Matairakula
Environmental Officer



Kerry Donovan
Administrative Advisor



Taitusi Dradra
Community Engagement
Officer



Raquel Carter
Strategic Projects and
Communications Advisor



Robert Edgar
Engineering Advisor



Cristian Gorrino
Technological Advisor

2020 PERFORMANCE – CULTURAL INTEGRITY

Leadership and Cultural Integrity

Cultural integrity is preserved through the celebration of values and strong leadership. The Pacific Blue Foundation organized workshops for the Sawau and Raviravi districts in Beqa Island to establish their Yaubula Management Support Team committee. High Chiefs Tui Sawau and Tui Raviravi, in inaugural meetings, emphasized empowerment and ownership of natural resource management. The Beqa Lagoon Initiative supports their vision, providing a pathway for goal implementation, with key stakeholders such as Pacific Blue Foundation, Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area, and Rewa Provincial Council participating, offering opportunities for program development and strengthened partnerships.



Vanua Empowerment

Cultural Empowerment, Leadership, and Good Governance programs were jointly organized in Beqa and Yanuca Islands by the Pacific Blue Foundation, Serua and Rewa Provincial Councils, Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area, and the Yanuca and Beqa Islands' community through the Beqa Lagoon Initiative. The initiative aimed to support community leaders in fulfilling their roles and responsibilities in governance and leadership. The program successfully empowered and motivated leaders to guide their communities towards unified efforts for sustainable natural resource use, integrating modern society practices while preserving cultural identity. Emphasis was placed on the profound connection of iTaukei people with the land and sea, promoting the revival of traditional knowledge and practices to counteract



negative impacts on natural resources caused by external influences.

Beqa Bose ni Tikina

The two districts of Sawau and Raviravi of Beqa Island held their Bose ni Tikina (District Council meeting) in November. Present at the meeting was Parliament member Ro Filipe Tuisawau and other government representatives from various ministries, school principals and non-government organizations, including PBF, Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area and the The Uto ni Yalo. The teams exchanged ideas and opinions regarding issues in the two Tikina that was presented by the village representatives.

The Beqa Lagoon Initiative team was grateful to have been requested to be part of the Bose ni Tikina. The team presented their projects and its activities along with their partners in these projects currently running in the two Tikinas.



2020 PERFORMANCE – MARINE AND COASTAL CONSERVATION

Coral reef surveys in Beqa Lagoon

The BLI team carried out rapid reef surveys of all the fringing reefs around Beqa, Yanuca and Ugaga Islands, over about 45 Km of reef! The surveys were done using manta tows and time swim methods, assessing the health of the reef, monitoring benthic cover, live coral cover and coral morphologies, and of key invertebrate species like giant clams, sea cucumber, triton and flagship species such as sharks, turtles and the rays, including the prevalence of crown of thorns starfish (COTS) and their feeding scars.

This project enabled to create a baseline of the health status of coral reefs and the abundance levels of COTS. The information was provided back to the Beqa Lagoon communities, and to government departments, to assist them in their marine resource management strategies.



Duff Reef Marine Reserve

The launching of the Duff Reef Marine Reserve marked a milestone achievement for Yavusa Qalitu, Mavana, in Vanuabalavu and the Lau Seascape Initiative. This area is a nesting site for green turtles and have been declared marine reserve by the late Tui Kobuca, Mr Laisenia Qarase with the support of the Yavusa Qalitu traditional leaders. The marine reserve was officially launched by the Hon. Minister for Fisheries, Mr Semi Koroilavesau and the Chairman of the Bose Vanua o Lau, Turaga na Roko Sau, Roko Josefa Cinavilakeba, PBF's Government and Community Relations Director. Pacific Blue Foundation in partnership with Conservation international as the leading NGOs for the Lau Seascape Initiative has built a unique multi-stakeholder partnership between the Bose Vanua o Lau and the Fijian Government and partner NGOs.

2020 PERFORMANCE – ENHANCING EDUCATION

Crown of Thorns Starfish Research

The second year with the research on the Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS), through a collaboration with the Pacific Centre for Environment & Sustainable



Development (PACE-SD) at the University of the South Pacific. The project had enabled a Fijian MSc Student, Selai Baleirara, together with her research assistants, Litia and Mika from Rukua Village in Beqa Island, and in partnership with PBF, with Sefano Katz as her site supervisor, to investigate the correlation between changes in seawater temperatures and reproduction of the COTS.

Green School Program

The Beqa Lagoon Initiative developed the Green Schools program through an initial partnership with the UNDP Accelerator Lab and the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network. The program started with the Beqa Yanuca High School in Raviravi Village, Beqa Island, with a goal of increasing nutritional food security in schools through an organic farming program.

The program development was in partnership with the school staff and management and with the communities of the Beqa Lagoon, and we conducted a socio-economic survey to gather information to assist in the initial set-up of the school farm.

The farm is supplementing the nutritional food supply to the school and the school committee and management team are working closely with the community because of the great help it is providing in sustaining the school to ensure student's well-being through nutritional food security.

With the development of the program, and with receiving further funding from the Canadian High Commission, PBF had partnered with the Fungs Farm and Pacific Grow, two companies in the organic farming sector. The programs that were developed provided the facilitation of training and awareness to school communities in four different schools, which included different aspects of farming such as soil health, bio-digester systems, seedlings raising, organic farming techniques, and food security. The programs also helped in guiding the installation of the farm facilities in the four sites. The school and the students are able to utilise this farm and systems for their agricultural studies in the secondary school, and during the extracurricular activities in the primary schools.



Organic Farming Training

In collaboration with the Koronivia Research Station, the PBF and research teams visited villages and schools in Beqa and Yanuca Islands, through the Green School Program, funded by the and the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives through the Canadian High Commission to Fiji. The team conducted scoping exercises in three schools and conducted socio-economic surveys to get a better understanding of the current state and future potential collaborative developments.

With the expertise from the Koronivia Research Station we also conducted soil sampling training and collected samples to help us determine the state of the soil, such as fertility of the soil and suggest the most suitable crops and vegetables to plant in these farms. Soil sampling training was conducted in Nawaisomo and Dakuibeqa villages, and samples were taken from the sites where the community farms have been erected, using drip irrigation systems which are using organic fertilizers from the Homebiogas system.

Computer handover

Through a donation by the ANZ Bank, Suva and in partnership with the UNDP Accelerator



Lab, the BLI team supported the Beqa-Yanuca Secondary School on Beqa Island with two desktop computers. The donation was provided as part of the funded project: COVID-19 Pacific Response: Sustainable Livelihood Challenge. This project supports the Green School program that was initially established in the school. The computers assist in purposes that benefit the students in their capacity building, such as with the school's IT classes.

2020 PERFORMANCE – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Waste collection campaign in Beqa Island

The communities of Beqa were able to get their island a bit cleaner by removing over 20 tons of solid waste. With concerted efforts of all the nine communities on the island, guided by the natural resource management committees, village clean-ups were done, and the collected waste was transported on boats to the mainland.

Coordinated by PBF and Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area, the Ministry of Health & Medical Services - Fiji supported the cause by including Beqa into the national clean-up campaign to reduce the potential cases of dengue and other mosquito-borne diseases. The ministry provided 2 trucks for the waste removal from Navua which was taken to the Naboro national waste treatment facility.

Animal Welfare program

A veterinary dream team conducted animal welfare clinics on Beqa Island as part of the Communities Compliant in Legislation and Animal Welfare (CLAW) program managed by the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) Fiji Islands. The initiative, in collaboration with the Beqa Lagoon Initiative, addresses the domesticated animal crisis on the island through a holistic approach. The team, composed of vets and technicians from SPCA Fiji, along with international volunteers coordinated by Vetopia Inc., Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area, and Pacific Blue Foundation, visited five villages and Beqa Lagoon Resort. Over a three-day period, they successfully de-sexed, treated, and inspected approximately 100 dogs, cats, and pigs. Lawaki Beach House provided essential on-island support, hosting the team with accommodation and meals, while Bluewater Craft assisted with marine transportation.



Cyclone relief to communities

Two programs, one supported by the New Zealand High Commission, and another by the Sherman Foundation and the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs, supported helping communities in Beqa lagoon that were affected during the tropical cyclone Harold.

The first program was in collaboration with the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas and supported nine villages in Beqa island and distributed food rations and household sanitary and female hygiene items.

The second program supported the Beqa Lagoon Initiative to partner with the Israeli-led Fijian Social Enterprise – Pacific Grow – and with the communities in Beqa to set up a strategy for food security through innovative agriculture technological development. The project integrated two systems into the communities, Homebiogas 7.0 and DripKit irrigation systems to enhance their farmed food supplies.



Solar energy at schools and villages

With efforts to maintain the power sources for communities and schools on Beqa Island; through the support of Blue Whale Adventures together with Karlen Energy, PBF were able to reconfigured the batteries for the Rukua village solar system, repaired the village generator at Naiseuseu village, repaired the solar system at the Rukua-Raviravi Primary school, identify dead batteries and plan for fixing the solar sytem at the Uluinakorovatu primary school (Naceva and Naiseuseu villages).

This was a major step forward to secure the basic needs for communities and school students!



PUBLICATIONS and MEDIA

TV

Fiji One: Marine surveys - [link](#).



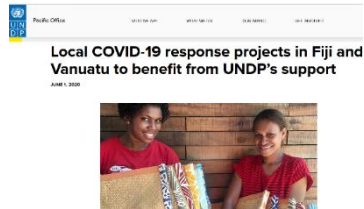
Radio

ABC: Combining culture, food security, education and entrepreneurship - [link](#).



News

UNDP: Food security, education and entrepreneurship - [link](#).



Fiji Times: Waste management on Beqa Island



Fiji Times: Green School Program - [link](#).



SOCIAL MEDIA

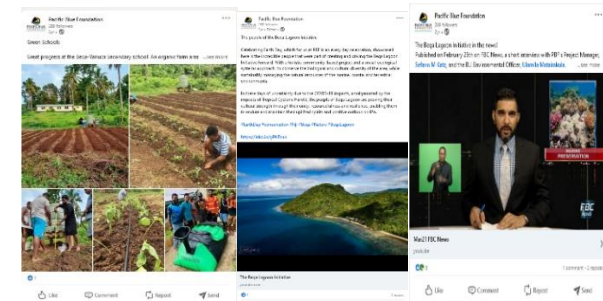
Facebook – 60 posts



Instagram – 13 posts



LinkedIn – 6 Posts



CONFERENCES

National Maritime Domain Awareness (workshop/conference)

The first-ever Maritime Domain Awareness Workshop in Fiji, co-hosted by the Minister of Defence, National Security, and Policing, Hon. Inia Seruiratu, and US Ambassador Joseph Cellar, was attended by Pacific Blue Foundation (PBF). The workshop, organized by the US Embassy to Fiji, the Ministry of Defence National Security and Policing, and the RFMF Naval Division, aimed to enhance cooperation, coordination, and information-sharing for effective maritime domain awareness. PBF President Dr. Greg Mitchell, Director Prof. Dale Keifer, and Project Manager Sefano Katz presented applicable tools and projects, including those in the Beqa Lagoon area. The workshop gathered various stakeholders, including government ministries, agencies, regional bodies, and the private sector, to build cross-sectoral approaches to address issues in Fiji's maritime domain. The event was featured in the Fiji Times.

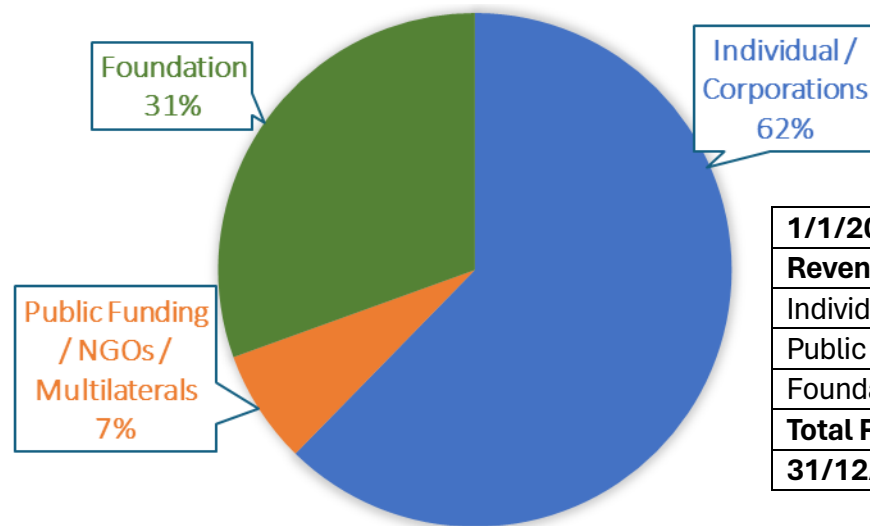


FINANCIAL REPORT

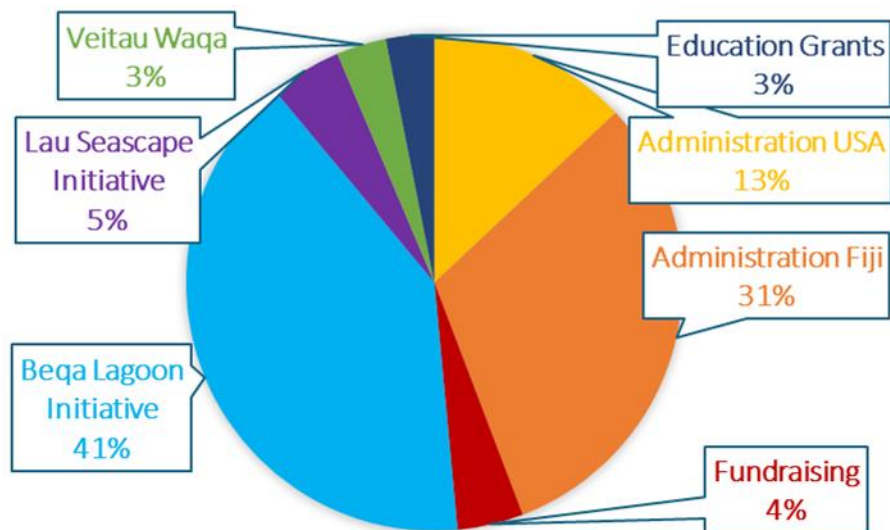
Grants summary

Project name	Funds received	Funding body	Funding term
Community-based fertilizer production from Crown-of-Thorns Starfish and seaweeds	\$9,780 USD (\$20,000FJ)	Pacific Islands Development Forum	2019 – 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	2019 – 2021
The Beqa Lagoon Initiative – Scaling up sustainable integrated ecosystem-based management plans	\$43,465 USD (\$88,880 FJ)	UNDP/GEF Small Grant Program	2017 – 2020
COVID-19 Pacific Response: Sustainable Livelihoods Challenge	\$10,000 USD (FJ\$20,400)	UNDP Accelerator Lab	2020 - 2021
Enhancing Beqa Lagoon's Food Security in the wake of Cyclone Harold	\$15,051 USD (FJ\$32,719)	Sherman Foundation and Israel Ministry of Foreign Affairs	2020
Increasing nutritional food security in 4 schools through an organic farming program	\$56,880 USD (FJ\$128,147)	Canadian High Commission through the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives	2020-2022

Revenue and Expenditures Summary



1/1/2020 Opening Bank Balance	US\$12,170	
Revenue	Amount (US\$)	Percentage (%)
Individual / Corporations	\$170,000	62.32%
Public Funding / NGOs / Multilaterals	\$19,532	7.16%
Foundation	\$83,245	30.52%
Total Revenue	\$272,778	100.00%
31/12/2020 Bank Closing Balance	\$93,006	



Expenses		
Management and Operations	Amount (US\$)	Percentage (%)
Administration USA	\$25,487	13.02%
Administration Fiji	\$61,056	31.18%
Fundraising	\$8,441	4.31%
Fiji Projects	Amount (US\$)	Percentage (%)
Beqa Lagoon Initiative	\$79,177	40.44%
Lau Seascope Initiative	\$9,125	4.66%
Veitau Waqa	\$6,353	3.24%
Education Grants	\$6,151	3.14%
Total Expenses	\$195,790	100.00%

FUNDERS and SUPPORTERS



PARTNERS and COLLABORATORS

