



PACIFIC BLUE
FOUNDATION
Sustaining Reef Communities



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

VANUA: 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.

YAUBULA: 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.

GREEN SCHOOLS: Knowledge, skills and capacity of the maritime communities are enriched, empowering future custodians to sustainably develop their communities and manage Fiji's natural resources.

BLUE COMMUNITIES: Community wellbeing, equality and resilience achieved through improved living standards, diversified alternative livelihood and shared responsibility which follow traditional governance structures.

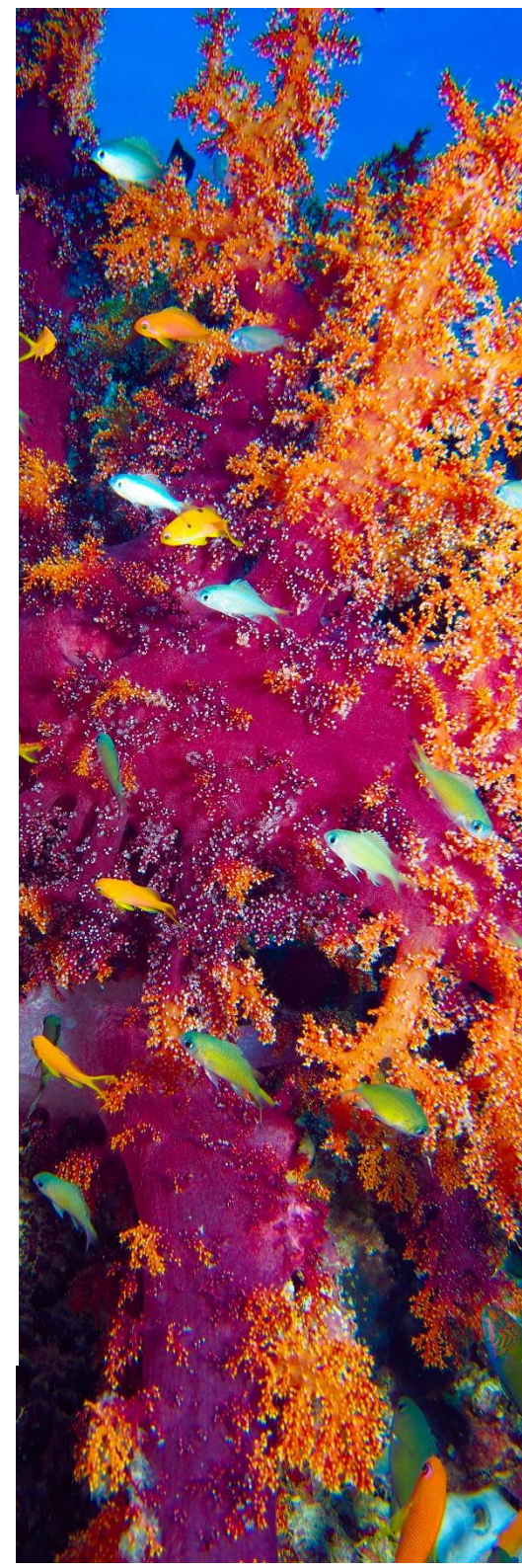
MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT

After a difficult year in 2020 with the COVID-19 pandemic collapsing tourism and commerce in Fiji, and major restrictions for travel between zones within Fiji, 2021 began with the same dire challenges. Despite the major challenges, our team remained in contact with the communities we serve and via remote interactions continued to make progress. While travel was limited within zones in Fiji until September 2021, within zones we were able to have limited meetings and activities and to create robust plans to be implemented after internal travel restrictions were lifted. For example, we took advantage of the slow pace of community-engagement and work in the villages to define future projects and submit proposals for support our work. Several of these were submitted in 2021 and funded, and others were drafted and submitted in 2022.

Once the restrictions were lifted in September, the PBF team responded quickly to implement major water security projects for the villages on Beqa and Yanuca Islands and to accelerate implementation of the Green Schools and Food Security initiatives, remove Crown of Thorns starfish from the reefs and to engage with the cultural mapping and governance initiatives. After a year and a half of COVID-19 challenges, our team responded effectively and efficiently to take advantage of getting back into the communities in the final quarter of 2021 building significant momentum into 2022.

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



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Program Director



Isimeli Loganimoce
Project Officer



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Environmental Officer



Kerry Donovan
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Community Engagement
Officer



Raquel Carter
Strategic Projects and
Communications Advisor



Robert Edgar
Engineering Advisor



Cristian Gorrino
Technological Advisor

2021 PERFORMANCE – VANUA PILLAR

Building capacity of the future generations

Awareness on community sustainability through the protection of our natural resources should be moulded into future generations' mindset at young age. They will practice on a daily basis the simplest actions of protecting our environment, a habit that will influence their parents, guardians, siblings and the entire community, which will become a way of life. The Beqa Lagoon Initiative operates through various programs, in the communities and in the schools, to enhance the level of awareness and to build capacity of the future generations for a social-ecological resilient future.



2021 PERFORMANCE – VANUA PILLAR

Vakabula Vanua

Good Leadership and Good Governance program was facilitated under the Beqa Lagoon Initiative theme, Vanua, in villages in Beqa Island. The program focused on providing awareness on strengthening traditional leadership through their roles and responsibilities and practicing good governance. Our Vanua encompasses the land, the sea and the people where leadership plays a critical role in the management of our environment and the natural resources it holds, our Yaubula.

For the iTaukei people, our Yaubula is our source of life and livelihood where our great grandmothers and grandfathers greatly depended on it.

we aim to strengthen the leadership and good governance at grassroot level to allow for better sustainability of our Yaubula.



2021 PERFORMANCE – VANUA PILLAR

Beqa Lagoon Initiative Strategic Planning

This week the BLI team comprised of the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA), Rewa Provincial Council Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Pacific Blue Foundation, and with Dr Alifereti Tawake as the lead facilitator; conducted a Strategic Planning workshop at Beqa Lagoon Resort, Beqa Island; with the communities of Beqa Island.

We had representatives from the Vanua, all the leaders of the island, women, men, youths, church and the Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST - Natural Resource Management Committee) from each of the nine communities.

The people from Beqa worked together during the three-day workshop to identify the gaps over the past years and share suggestions and opinions to create goals and solutions under the BLI themes; Vanua, Yaubula, Green Schools and Blue Communities. It was an amazing workshop as we witnessed the leaders of these communities sit together to discuss ways forward for the betterment of their land, sea and the people, their Vanua.

We thank the Beqa Lagoon Resort for their support enabling to conduct this workshop. The workshop was able to strengthen the way through which a strategic plan is created for Beqa, in Beqa by Beqans!



2021 PERFORMANCE – VANUA PILLAR

Cultural and Socio-economic Mapping of the Lau Seascape

The Lau Seascape Initiative is a collaborative program between different entities, led by Conservation International Fiji and Pacific Blue Foundation (PBF) is a core partner. The initiative conducted a cultural and socio-economic mapping program of the Lau Seascape, which was initially developed and facilitated by the Roko Sau of Totoya, Roko Josefa Cinavilakeba - PBF's Community and Government Relations Director.

The mapping program aims to study the lifestyle of a Fijian community and to understand how communities are utilizing their natural resources. This program was design to reinvigorate and restore culture and tradition from a structured way of life that has been broken in different ways; historical sites that were left behind; natural resources with no management structure; and further learn how communities can sustainably utilize natural resources.

This program helps local communities of Lau to see the changes that have happened from generation to generation and to recognize the strength of our unique culture, which was once so intact and widely practiced.

The program focuses on uniting the people by living a communal life with a shared traditional knowledge and a developed economic system for every community to adequately manage natural resources.



2021 PERFORMANCE – YAUBULA PILLAR

Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) Drive

A great initiative by the youths of Rukua Village, Beqa Island, where they conducted a crown-of-thorns starfish (COTS) community drive.

These youths comprising of both girls and boys took the first step in the fight to protect their coral reefs. They surveyed the reefs around the village and patch reefs further out at sea, monitoring COTS scars and traces and removed the starfishes that were located. Rubbish, entangled ropes and fishing gear, and coral-eating *Drupella* snails were also removed during the activity.

Acknowledgement goes out to The Uto ni Yalo Trust for the canoe building project that had allowed the youths to utilize canoe and the SUPs for the COTS monitoring activity.

The BLI team was invited to support the youth group in providing guidance and materials on COTS control and awareness on coral reef ecology and conservation.

This is a great step for Rukua's youth, and a display of the younger generations taking ownership and utilizing available resources to protect our ocean, our corals, our fish and our source of livelihood.



2021 PERFORMANCE – YAUBULA PILLAR

Community Crown-of-Thorns Starfish (COTS) Program

The youth group of Soliyaga village have taken ownership in protecting their coral reefs. The team, led by Ratu Epeli Bigitibau and Loraini Waucu, comprised males and females, conducted a COTS monitoring and control survey program.

The program enabled the youths to determine the abundance of COTS and physically remove these coral-eating predators from the reef. The youths conducted this survey in both the protected and non-protected marine areas and recorded that there was a high number of COTS in the protected area, which corresponded with the high coral cover. In addition to removing the harmful starfish the youths took the initiative to also remove litter they found on the reef.

The training program was virtually facilitated by Pacific Blue Foundation and Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA). Youths were provided awareness and training materials on the monitoring and removal methods of COTS.

The COTS program, part of the Yaubula (natural resource management) theme, ensures that the community is well informed and trained so they can strengthen their role as custodians and in the protection of their coral reefs, with an aim to conduct these surveys independently and possibly train other communities in the Beqa Lagoon.



2021 PERFORMANCE – YAUBULA PILLAR

Blue Food Challenge

Pacific Blue Foundation has been selected as a winner of the Blue Food Challenge!

We were one of the 11 Top Innovators exposed at the World Economic Forum Sustainable Development Impact Summit, held between September 20-23 and hosted alongside the UN General Assembly. To address fundamental causes of reef degradation and to facilitate diversified income opportunities, this innovative approach utilizes the combination of overabundant seaweeds and COTS biomass to financially incentivize regenerative natural resource management practices of invasive species. The solution provides a community capacity building and business implementation framework, creating a financially self-sustaining (circular), community-owned, market-oriented enterprise.

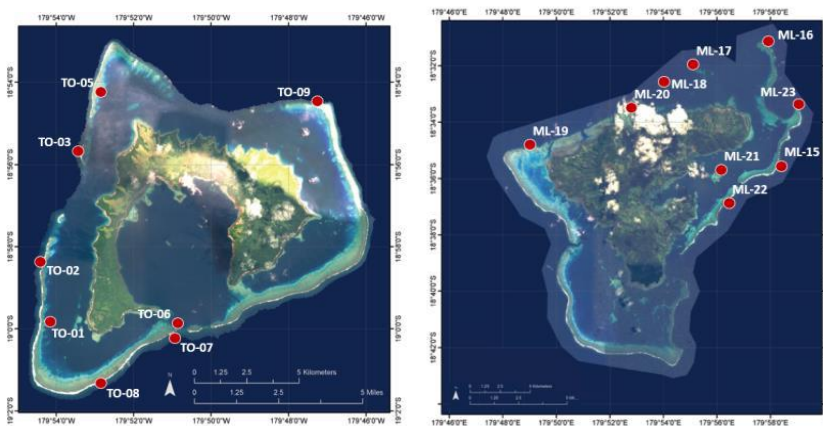
The innovation is part of the Blue Food Challenge, launched by the Friends of Ocean Action and UpLink - World Economic Forum, in order to uncover innovations to help accelerate the integration of aquatic foods into global food systems.



CoralNet

In 2021 we built upon the CoralNet machine learning (artificial intelligence, AI) platform to carry out a proof of concept application to two Islands

in Fiji through a collaboration with Dr. Alexandra Dempsey of the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation (KSLOF) and Daniel Conley, a PhD graduate student at Scripps Institution of Oceanography. This is the first step toward our eventual goal to enable low-skilled indigenous communities to collect digital images at low cost, link to the internet cloud and have the images processed and data delivered back that is relevant for indigenous community management, but also scientific studies and government management. Dr. Dempsey collected very high-quality images from Fiji in 2013 and 2017 from several locations in the Lau Islands where Pacific Blue Foundation is collaborating with Conservation International.



2021 PERFORMANCE – GREEN SCHOOLS PILLAR

Green Schools Program

The BLI team in collaboration with the Fung's Organic Farm, the Rewa and Serua Provincial Offices of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, Ministry of Education, Pacific Grow, FLMMA and Matanataki, working in four schools in Beqa Island and Yanuca Islands; Beqa-Yanuca Secondary School, Uluinakorovatu Primary School, Yanuca Island Primary School, and the Sawau District School, which together cater for all 10 villages in the Beqa Lagoon seascape.

The Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives through the Canadian High Commission of Canada and the United Nations Development Program are the main funders of this program.

The team collaborated with key stakeholders of this program, namely the Vanua, school committee, school management and taskforces. We're fortunate that in these challenging times, this Green School Program was able to secure students in the schools' nutritional food security, capacity building and good practices of organic farming.



Green Schools Program - Cont.

All schools underwent a two-week workshop to enhance their capacity in sustainable organic farming where it can be practiced on a daily basis. The workshops culminated in erecting an organic farm with the installation of several systems that will make the farm self sustainable, environmentally friendly, and serve as an educational and demonstration site.

The systems include drip-irrigation, HomebioGas, compost facility, nursery, and worm farm.

The program enabled children to eat healthier and nutritious meals, which were cooked by the mothers in the school cafeteria using the Homebiogas system. The Green School facility has also erected water shed for the school organic farm. The sheds collect additional water that is used as emergency water for the school, and also provide for the farm irrigation.

We had developed with all the schools' stakeholders a governance framework covering elements of roles and responsibilities of the Green School stakeholders, and the framework design to ensure the longevity of the program.

The program focuses on developed inclusive programs for students' nutritional food security and capacity building on the practice of organic farming, to help tackle non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and nutrient deficiencies in schools, which are major threats to Fijians. NCDs are attributed to poor diets and lack of nutritional food, mainly in early stages of child development.

The project aims to achieve nutritional food security and economic development for the schools and communities.



2021 PERFORMANCE – GREEN SCHOOLS PILLAR

Pacific School Food Network

The Pacific School Food Network (PSFN), was officially launched in October, and was formed by a small group of Pacific school feeding advocates at The Global Child Nutrition Forum in 2019.

The network aims to connect stakeholders from across food systems, including primary producers, educators and nutrition and health experts, to support the advocacy, development and establishment of activities that result in the provision of food and nutrition education activities in Pacific Island Countries.

The network comprises of private entities, government departments and academia working in collaboration to ensure that children in schools receive nutritional food security. Pacific Blue Foundation has joined the PSFN, linking to the Beqa Lagoon Initiative's Green School Program which aims to foster a healthy food and nutritional environment, offering an entry point to reach children, parents, school staff and the wider community to improve food consumption behaviours.

They can include relevant policy and standards, provision of nutritious food in and near schools, nutrition education and complementary activities, for example integrated curriculum using school gardens for practical learning experiences.

The PSFN will enable the region to work together to ensure nutritional food security for our children through collaboration with local initiatives.

Learn more about the network in this [link](#).



2021 PERFORMANCE – BLUE COMMUNITIES PILLAR

Canoe Project in Beqa Lagoon

The Uto ni Yalo Trust, in partnership with the The University of the South Pacific (USP) and Pacific–European Union Marine Partnership Programme (PEUMP), and Pacific Blue Foundation, conducted a canoe building and sailing project from late December 2020, when the sailors braved the conditions and sailed the canoes from Suva to Beqa Island; and was carried forward in Rukua village, Beqa Island.

The nine communities of Beqa Island participated in this unique project, having two youth representatives from each community, whereby five were females.

These youths were taught to build and sail the canoe; after the program these canoes were handed over to their individual communities. These canoes will look into assisting villagers in daily activities such as transportation and fishing trips. And importantly, as reiterated by the Chief of Sawau, the Turaga Tui Sawau, these canoes would support the communities with the management of the marine environment, which will be integrated into the Beqa Lagoon Initiative programs. This unique program revives the traditional way of life and enhances knowledge and skills of our youths in order to maintain and preserve culture and tradition.



2021 PERFORMANCE – BLUE COMMUNITIES PILLAR

Water Security Program

In the remote islands of Beqa and Yanuca, water scarcity threatened the daily lives of rural and coastal communities. The Pacific Blue Foundation took action, implementing a Water Security Program to address insufficient supply and poor water quality. Focused on Beqa and Yanuca Islands, the program aimed to secure a healthy water source for these communities. The initiative not only tackled immediate repairs and maintenance but also emphasized knowledge and skills development. The team worked on enhancing infrastructure preventive maintenance and troubleshooting for water sources, piping, generators, and outboard engines. Villages, schools, and households benefited from the project, receiving assistance in repairing broken pipes, addressing leakages, and assessing water catchments. The communities were trained in locating and fixing water leaks, changing broken water taps, and maintaining pipelines from catchment to village. The ultimate goal was to ensure sufficient water supply for all needs.

The endeavour was made possible through co-funding from the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives, Blue Whale Adventures, and the Pacific Blue Foundation. As a community member from Naceva, Beqa Island, named Waisea, aptly put it, "We never know the worth of water till the well is dry." The project not only provided immediate relief but also empowered these island communities to safeguard their water sources for a more sustainable future.



PUBLICATIONS AND MEDIA

TV

FBC News: Marine ecosystem a priority for Fiji's Lagoon – [link](#).



FBC News: Beqa Lagoon Initiative preserves marine ecosystems – [link](#).



News

FBC News: Restoring and enhancing the structural diversity of coral reef communities – [link](#).



Fiji Times: Traditional leadership must take the lead in the protection and conservation of its resources – [link](#).



FBC News: Beqa Lagoon initiative to safeguard ecosystem – [link](#).



Fiji Sun: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



UNDP: Green Schools - Experience is the best teacher – [link](#).



Fiji Times: 11 Top Innovators – Sustaining reef communities – [link](#).



SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook – 81 posts

Instagram – 66 posts

LinkedIn – 5 posts



EXTERNAL REPORTS

UNDP: Green Schools – Institutional Farm – [link](#).



CONFERENCES

Pacific Theological College conference: Turaga Roko Sau, Roko Josefa Cinavilakeba, spoke at the 'Justice for the Ocean' conference at the Pacific Theological College, addressing the theme 'Season of Creation.' [link](#).

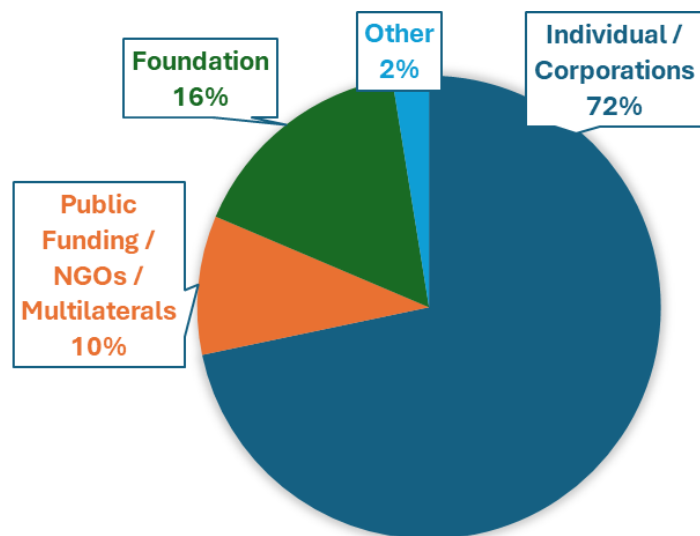


FINANCIAL REPORT

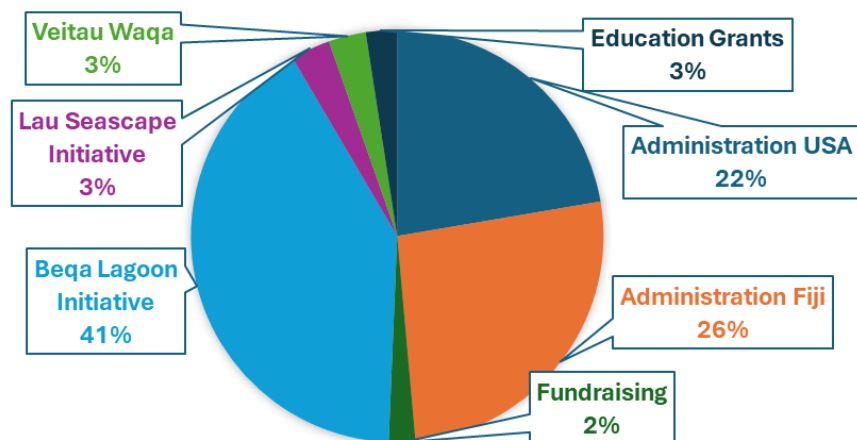
Grants summary

Project name	Funds received	Funding body	Funding term
Community-based fertilizer production from Crown-of-Thorns Starfish and seaweeds	US\$9780 (FJ\$20,000)	Pacific Islands Development Forum	2019 – 2021
Enhancing coral reef resilience and community nutrition through Crown-of-Thorns Starfish Control-Phase 1	US\$23,500 (FJ\$49,474)	Conservation, Food and Health Foundation	2019 – 2021
Enhancing coral reef resilience and community nutrition through Crown-of-Thorns Starfish Control-Phase 2	US\$30,000 (FJ\$63,158)	Conservation, Food and Health Foundation	2021 - 2023
COVID-19 Pacific Response: Sustainable Livelihoods Challenge	US\$10,000 (FJ\$20,400)	UNDP Accelerator Lab	2020 - 2021
Increasing nutritional food security in schools through an organic farming program	US\$56,880 (FJ\$128,147)	Canadian High Commission through the Canadian Fund for Local Initiatives	2020 - 2022
Machine learning artificial intelligence (AI) for coral reef management	US\$100,000 (FJ\$222,770)	Manitou Foundation and the Greater Houston Community Foundation	2021 - 2024

Revenue and Expenditures Summary



1/1/2021 Opening Bank Balance	US\$93,005.89	
Revenue	Amount (US\$)	Percentage (%)
Individual / Corporations	\$335,000.00	71.70%
Public Funding / NGOs / Multilaterals	\$45,322.20	9.70%
Foundation	\$75,000.00	16.05%
Other	\$11,882.31	2.55%
Total Revenue	\$467,204.51	100.00%
31/12/2021 Bank Closing Balance	\$337,986.52	



Expenses		
Management and Operations	Amount (US\$)	Percentage (%)
Administration USA	\$47,432.71	22.32%
Administration Fiji	\$55,826.20	26.27%
Fundraising	\$4,418.27	2.08%
Fiji Projects	Amount (US\$)	Percentage (%)
Beqa Lagoon Initiative	\$86,892.68	40.88%
Lau Seascape Initiative	\$6,536.73	3.08%
Veitau Waqa	\$6,224.49	2.93%
Education Grants	\$5,202.50	2.45%
Total Expenses	\$212,533.58	100.00%

FUNDERS and SUPPORTERS



PARTNERS and COLLABORATORS

