

FIJI

Fiji is a critical site for global coral reef conservation with 10,000 square kilometers of coral reef and an astounding 42 percent of the world's coral species. Fiji's coral reefs face significant global and local threats including climate change, overfishing and water pollution.

The Coral Reef Alliance's (CORAL) vision for Fiji is an **ADAPTIVE REEFSCAPE** – a network of healthy reefs that can adapt to climate change because it is diverse, connected and large. Pacific island nations like Fiji are among the world's most physically and economically vulnerable to climate change. By establishing management systems that mutually benefit communities and coral reefs, our work ensures that both are more resilient to environmental change.

CORAL has more than 15 years of experience working in Fiji on coral reef conservation, with an emphasis on effective management of Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs) through stakeholder engagement. CORAL's work in Fiji focuses on our **Healthy Fisheries for Reefs, Intact Reef Ecosystems and Science of Adaptation** Initiatives.



HIGHLIGHTS

- 2001** – **CORAL begins working in Fiji** with a focus on the Namena Marine Reserve (Namena)
- 2004** – **Namena creates a volunteer dive fee program** to raise funds for conservation
- 2005** – **The first ecosystem-based management plan for Namena is developed** by the Kubulau community
- 2009** – **CORAL improves management of Namena** by establishing the Kubulau Resource Management Committee (KRMC)
- 2011** – **CORAL helps Namena become Fiji's first anchor-free marine reserve** by installing moorings
- 2014** – **KRMC achieves autonomous management** of the volunteer dive fee program
- 2015** – **Five poachers are apprehended** thanks to the law enforcement protocol developed by CORAL and the Kubulau community
- 2016** – **The Kubulau community rapidly and effectively responds** to Tropical Cyclone Winston
 - **CORAL launches work in three new sites:** Ra Province, Oneata and Waivunia

OUR WORK MAKES A DIFFERENCE

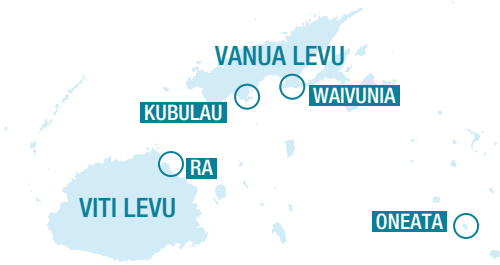
CORAL HAS BEEN WORKING IN FIJI FOR OVER FIFTEEN YEARS.

We work in **FOUR PRIORITY SITES** in Fiji – Kubulau, Ra Province, Oneata and Waivunia – which together form the cornerstone of a Fijian **Adaptive Reefscape**.

Through our **Healthy Fisheries for Reefs** and **Intact Reef Ecosystems** Initiatives, CORAL establishes effective and durable management systems which mitigate threats like overfishing and destruction of reef habitat. The Namena Marine Reserve, Fiji's largest no-take Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) and a top global dive site, forms part of the traditionally-owned fishing grounds (*iqoliqoli*) of the Kubulau community. Over a decade ago, CORAL began working with the Kubulau community and private businesses to develop a sustainable management system that would protect these fisheries from overexploitation, while providing tangible benefits to the community. We helped establish a highly successful voluntary dive fee program for

tourists visiting Namena, which generates sufficient funds to cover management costs (such as enforcement patrols) and a scholarship program that has benefitted over 200 students to date.

Our work in Kubulau represents a replicable and scalable model for building an effective local management system with the financial means and staff capacity to achieve independence. As the Kubulau community has moved towards autonomous management, we have expanded our work to three new sites: Ra Province, Oneata and Waivunia. In these sites, we are applying best practices from Kubulau, and building durable management systems that create win-wins for communities and coral reefs.



MEASURABLE RESULTS

A study published in the **scientific journal** *Coral Reefs* in 2013 found that abundance and biomass of reef sharks were **two to four times** higher in the **Namena Marine Reserve** than in surrounding fished areas, due to greater prey availability.



CORAL REEF
ALLIANCE

UNITING COMMUNITIES TO SAVE CORAL REEFS

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