



WWF



for a living planet

Friends of the Reef

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The waters of the South Pacific are host to some of the worlds most precious and diverse marine environments.

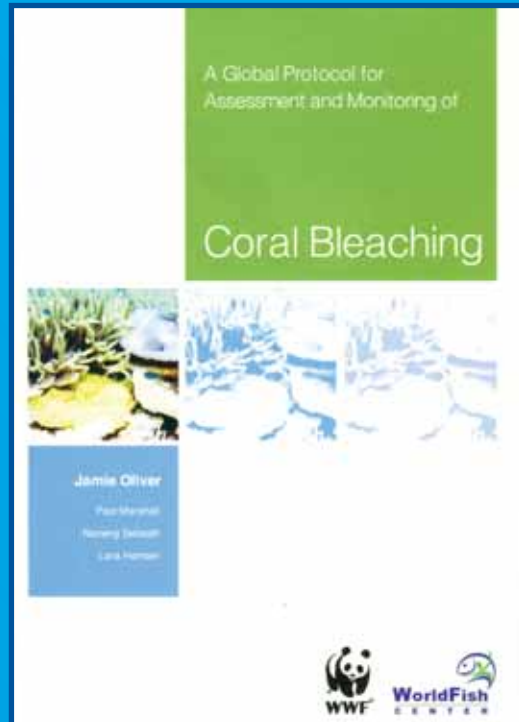
These marine environments are not safe from the growing pressures of over fishing, unsustainable fishing practices, pollution and poor land-use practices. Added to this is the impact of global climate change which threatens entire coral reefs through coral bleaching events.

Monitoring Protocol", which enables the collection of standardized data on climate related coral bleaching events

In Fiji, this protocol is being used on two pilot sites, on Kabara, in the Lau group of Islands. WWF has been working here with local communities to monitor for signs of climate change related coral bleaching, as well as other impacts upon the reef.

Coral bleaching occurs when increased sea temperatures result in the loss of zooxanthellae, the organisms that live within corals. As a result, corals rapidly lose colour and turn a brilliant white, while the vital functions offered to corals by these organisms are no longer available. Sustained temperature increases over time can cause the coral to die.

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To download a PDF copy of this Protocol, visit: www.wwfpacific.org.fj/what_we_do/climate_change

Building stronger reefs

Friends of the Reef is also working to develop a longer term Resilience Building Protocol, which will provide guidance to marine managers on how to increase the resilience of coral reefs to future climate related bleaching events.

Reefs are made more resistant to the impacts of climate change by removing on-going stresses, through the improved management of marine areas. In Kabara, for example, local communities have already begun to take steps to protect their reefs by moving away from unsustainable practices. For example, Naikeleaga village in Kabara has enforced a ban on the dumping of waste from supply boats in the

Corals become "bleached" when water temperatures rise too high and are sustained for too long.

Better Reefs for Better Lives

Through Friends of the Reef WWF envisions a world where our reefs are more resistant and resilient against the impacts of climate change. This will ensure that reef biodiversity is maintained, and that reef ecosystems continue to provide critical support for subsistence, tourism, and other uses.

Monitoring the impacts of climate change

To better understand the impacts that the global threat of climate change is having on our reefs, Friends of the Reef Project has developed a "Coral Bleaching



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WWF working with communities in Fiji.

lagoon. They have also banned the use of destructive fishing practices, such as the use of the poisonous 'tuva' plant.

Empowering local communities

To help communities ensure the long term sustainability of their marine environment, Friends of the Reef Project is providing training for a core group of community members in marine science and monitoring techniques through on-site training with WWF officers.

Friends of the Reef has also initiated community scholarships to attend dive training and coral reef education, in a partnership between WWF and the Fiji Coral Cay Conservation Project.

Raising Pacific Voices against climate change

The only way to ensure the longer term survival of our coral reefs against climate change related coral bleaching is to prevent further dangerous climate change. This means pushing for a global reduction of emissions of climate changing gases. In Fiji, WWF is working alongside both government and communities to call for industrialized nations to urgently reduce their emissions of these dangerous climate changing gases.

Be a Friend of the Reef!

WWF would like to invite YOU to become a supporter of our on-going work against climate change, and to become a Friend of the Reef. You can find out more about what WWF is doing about climate change, and how to support its Friends of the Reef project by visiting our website at the address below.



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Voices against Climate Change ... Fiji's Climate Witness, Penina Moce of Kabara Island during a workshop.

You can sign up to our climate change e-newsletter either through our website, or by emailing us on:

climatechange@wwfpacific.org.fj



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