



WCS EBM Kubulau Bulletin



News:

11th International Coral Reef Symposium



A presentation was made at the 11th International Coral Reef Symposium on 9 July 2008 in Florida, USA, entitled, “Developing a model for ecosystem-based management in the tropical South Pacific – initial results from a case study in Fiji”. Daniel Egli, Niarchos postdoctoral research fellow with WCS, gave the presentation, which was co-authored by Kathy Walls (formerly of WCS), Aaron Jenkins (WI-O) and Kesaia Tabunakawai (WWF). The goal of the presentation was to showcase to the international coral reef community the ongoing Ecosystem-Based Management projects at Kubulau and Macuata and to highlight how the success of the EBM projects relies upon community involvement.

Moorings to be installed in Namena



Through the work of Coral Reef Alliance (CORAL) and the Stakeholders of the Namena marine protected area, a series of permanent moorings are being installed within and around the reserve. Funding for the moorings was raised through the Moore & Packard Foundation, the Mar Viva Foundation and the sale of Namena dive tags. The moorings will reduce anchor damage to the reefs. Greenforce volunteers and WCS will be monitoring the reefs around the mooring areas to look for signs of recovery.

Project Update:

Dart Tagging

In May-June 2008, the WCS Fish Tagging team, led by Niarchos fellow Daniel Egli, captured and tagged 135 fish from 8 families. Most of the fish caught were emperors, snappers and grouper.

If you catch a tagged fish, fill out the form with the description of the fish and where it was caught. Make sure to record the tag number, location where the fish was caught, date and fish length at time of capture. Call Sirilo Dulunaqio (Didi) at **885 3035** to receive your free Kubulau Tag Team t-shirt. T-shirts will only be distributed when both the tag and form are provided.



Recent Work Completed:

- Socioeconomic surveys in Navatu led by USP researcher Patrick Sakiusa Fong (“Saki”), funded through a Conservation International project to investigate how marine managed areas affect human livelihood and well-being, June 2008
- Seagrass mapping surveys, led by Duke University Masters student and WCS volunteer Lindsay Aylesworth

Work In Progress:

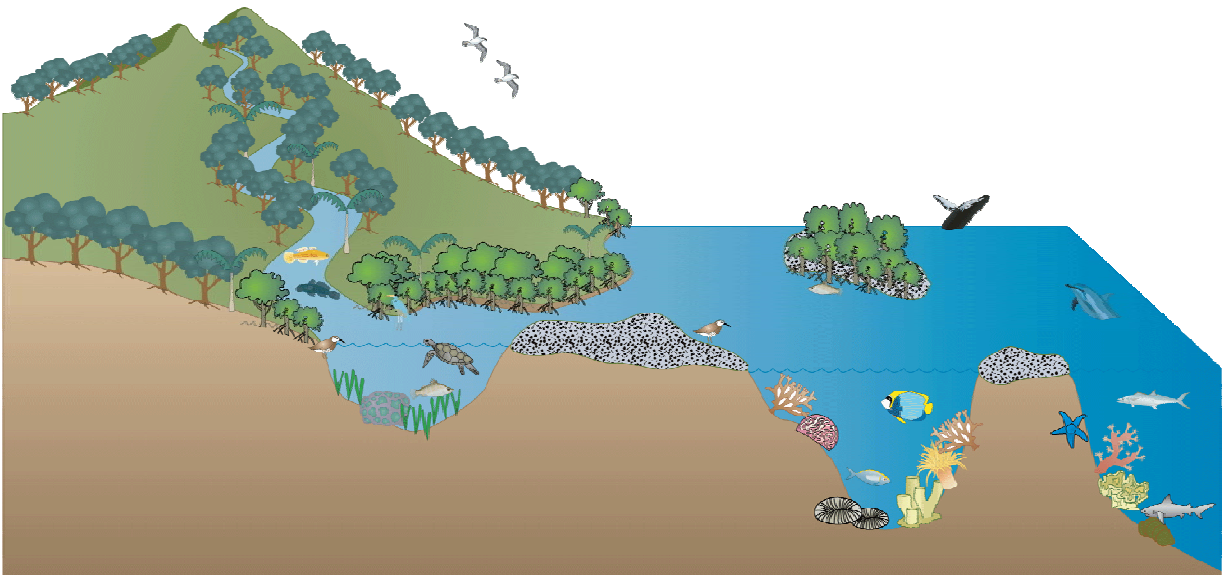


Community Mangrove Monitoring

Volunteers from Raviravi have been busy collecting mangrove leaf litter every month since January. Scientists at USP are busy analysing the contents to look for seasonal differences that may be affected by future climate change. WCS is about to begin a mapping study to look at how mangrove areas have changed over time in the Kubulau region, in order to identify the causes of mangrove change.

Upcoming activities

- Namena Stakeholder meeting (July 2008)
- Socioeconomic surveys throughout Kubulau tikina, led by Patrick Sakiusa Fong (August 2008)
- Community-led biological and socioeconomic monitoring (August 2008)



The health of coral reefs depends on the health of all adjacent ecosystems. Keeping forests and mangroves intact will help protect downstream fish populations.

WCS encourages you to contact us with any questions about coral reefs and our projects in Kubulau. We will print answers in future newsletters. Please address any questions to:

WCS South Pacific Program, 11 Ma'afu Street, Suva, Fiji Islands.