

Research Overview of Blue Ventures Fiji

The Project

Based on the island of Leleuvia in central Fiji's Lomaiviti province, Blue Ventures is working with local and national partners on an ambitious multidisciplinary marine research and conservation programme.

Blue Ventures' activities incorporate applied marine, fisheries and socioeconomic research, field-based training in conservation science, and community engagement in adaptive marine resource management.

Research objectives have been developed in collaboration with the national [Fisheries ministry](#), and focus on addressing areas of key data-deficiency, in particular through assessment and monitoring of coral reefs and artisanal fisheries in Kubuna waters.



Conservation strategies are being developed to safeguard the sustainability of the artisanal fisheries underpinning Lomaiviti's economy, whilst addressing the primary direct threats to the region's formidable marine biodiversity. Critical threats include poison fishing, poaching within marine protected areas, and illegal long-line shark fishing and turtle fishing.

Partners for Conservation

Within Fiji Blue Ventures is a member of the Locally-Managed Marine Area Network ([LMMA](#)), an alliance of practitioners involved in community-based marine conservation projects around the central Indopacific region.

Within LMMA, Blue Ventures brings learning and experience from its acclaimed work developing locally-managed [marine conservation](#) in Madagascar.



Blue Ventures is also supporting national research and training activities through a working partnership with the University of the South Pacific ([USP](#)), in which students from USP's [School of Marine Science](#) receive intensive 6-week training scholarships in coral reef and fisheries monitoring techniques. Scholarships are offered year-round, based out of Blue Ventures' field base on Leleuvia island.