



**SOCPacific**  
A Sea of Connections

**A SEA OF CONNECTIONS:  
VALUING REEF PASSAGES  
IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC REGION  
(SOCPacific2R)**



[www.socpacific.link](http://www.socpacific.link)

## CONTEXT

The United Nations' (UN) Sustainable Development Goal 14 - Life below water - aims at conserving and sustainably using the oceans. This goal is connected to the global target to expand protected areas to 30% of the planet by 2030, focusing on areas that are particularly important for biodiversity, such as coral reefs. Pacific Island countries and territories are integral for achieving such ambitious conservation objectives.

## OBJECTIVES

Through its empirical focus on New Caledonia and Fiji, the project aims at:

1

Conducting a **transdisciplinary study of reef passages** as dynamic social-ecological assemblages

2

Documenting **management and conservation arrangements** applied to reef passages

3

Establishing a participatory **science-society-policy dialogue** around desirable futures for reef passages



## FOCUS

The reef passages connecting coastal waters and the open ocean are known as outstanding hotspots of biodiversity and productivity. Hence, they are of multifaceted significance for the overall health of both coral reef ecosystems and the people who depend on the latter and their resources to survive. SOCPacific2R focuses on these under-researched social-ecological 'communication zones' and 'keystone places'.



## A CONTRIBUTION TO THE UN OCEAN DECADE

Through these interrelated objectives and associated capacity-building components, SOCPacific2R will provide holders of customary rights, policy-makers and other stakeholders with evidence-based research and exchange fora to empower them for the joint management and conservation of reef passages. This shall facilitate the integration of reef passages in future marine/ocean policy and practice.



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A project based on a trusted partnership between the **University of the South Pacific (USP)**, the **French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)** and the **German Leibniz Centre for Tropical Marine Research (ZMT)**.

## CONTACTS



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