

琉球大学学術リポジトリ

フィジーにおけるサンゴ礁の現況

メタデータ	言語: 出版者: 琉球大学21世紀COEプログラム 公開日: 2007-10-28 キーワード (Ja): キーワード (En): 作成者: Zann, Leon メールアドレス: 所属:
URL	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12000/2180

Session 1: Biodiversity in ecophysiological scales

Status of coral reefs in Fiji

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The Fiji Islands in the South Western Pacific consists of 884 islands (120 inhabited), and over 1000 coral reefs. Fiji's coral reefs have great biodiversity value and are important for artisanal and subsistence fisheries. Reefs support over 420 algal taxa, 4 species of seagrass, 9 species of mangroves, over 200 spp corals, over 800 species of macro-mollusks, 1,200 spp bony fish, 3 spp sea snakes and 3 spp sea turtles. Inshore fisheries landings are over 40,000 mt pa. Major issues include over-fishing, destructive fishing techniques, eutrophication from terrestrial run-off, loss of habitat, chronic outbreaks of crown-of-thorns starfish and coral bleaching. Some reefs are changing from coral- to macroalgal-dominated systems. There is limited scientific and management capacity within government, and only a relatively small area of reefs is adequately managed or protected. The Fiji government is intending to return sea tenure to the nation's 410 customary fishing grounds owners in the near future. This will require the development of a national system of locally managed marine areas, and active technical support for communities. Fiji's research and management needs are identified, and the role of the University of the South Pacific and international collaboration is discussed.