

Fiji launches Blue Prosperity program to secure healthy oceans & economic resilience

New partnership with the Waitt Institute will support implementation of 30% protection of Fiji's ocean and development of a diverse blue economy

SUVA, FIJI, December 3, 2021 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Republic of Fiji has formalized a



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partnership with the [Waitt Institute](#) to implement 30% protection of Fiji's waters from 0-200 nautical miles and support ocean management in three core areas; Marine Spatial Planning, Blue Economy, and Sustainable Fisheries. This 5+ year Blue Prosperity program will be led by the Fijian Government and designed in a way to support inclusion, equity, and traditional knowledge to improve long-term economic stability, livelihoods, and ocean ecosystems.

The Ministries of Economy, Fisheries, and Environment

have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Waitt Institute to formally launch the Blue Prosperity program, which seeks to assist Fiji's vision to sustainably manage 100% of its ocean and marine resources while implementing Fiji's global leadership commitments to protect 30% by 2030. The Blue Prosperity program will align with and learn from existing ocean management efforts. The program will be science-based, collaborative, and consultative, with input from government agencies, civil society, stakeholders, NGOs, community groups, ocean experts, and individuals.

Attorney General and Minister of Economy, Civil Service, and Communications, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum said, "The signing of this Memorandum of Understanding is another fundamental step towards that better, bluer and more sustainable future. And we're grateful to you, Ted Waitt, for putting your time and resources behind a cause that I know means as much to you as it does to any Fijian. We all understand that the greatest good we can achieve in our lifetimes is to protect the Earth, the one home we have, and un-do the decades of reckless damage done to the natural world. We have the knowledge and wisdom to do much better by nature and, in so doing, do much better for ourselves and our children. This effort is far too important for any of us to go it alone."

Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) is 70 times larger than its landmass, making up 1,290,000 km². In 2021, the Ministry of Economy released the [National Ocean Policy](#) (NOP), a guiding document defining the mission "to secure and sustainably manage all of Fiji's ocean and marine resources."

The Waitt Institute will provide technical expertise, capacity, and funding to assist Fiji in implementing their ocean commitments and elements of the NOP. The Waitt Institute partners with committed governments and local stakeholders to create and implement sustainable ocean plans to benefit communities, the economy, and the environment. They currently have partnerships within the Pacific region with the Governments of Tonga, Federated States of Micronesia, Samoa, as well as other global partnerships in the Azores, Barbuda, Bermuda, Curaçao, and the Maldives.

Ted Waitt, Founder and Chairman of the Waitt Institute said, "Only Fijians know what is best for Fijians' ocean. We're humbled and honored to be able to provide the technical assistance to make their visions for resilient oceans in Fiji a reality. We recognize the immense amount of work that has been done to manage Fiji's oceans thus far and are proud to support the Government, NGOs, and communities in their efforts to protect 30% of Fiji's waters."

The MOU signing launches a 6-month work planning process with government agencies to determine key goals, objectives, and collaborators. Upon conclusion of the work planning phase, the Blue Prosperity program will begin assessments and consultations to ultimately create a legally-binding marine spatial plan, promote economic growth, and support Fiji's efforts to strengthen sustainable fisheries management.

"To truly succeed, Fiji's commitments must become the world's. We believe our most lasting contribution to this effort extends far beyond our patch of Pacific because we believe that our example can inspire others. We have seen before that ideas and projects that start in our islands can be scaled up around the world. And we have the plans and the potential to be that beacon for sustainable innovation and for responsible blue development. Thanks to the Waitt Institute, we now have another key partnership as well. And I commend you all for being here, for standing with us, and for helping to make a defining difference for the security and prosperity of countless generations to come." said Attorney General and Minister of Economy, Civil Service, and Communications, Aiyaz Sayed-Khaiyum.



Fijian Government and Waitt Institute at the MOU signing

About the Waitt Institute

The Waitt Institute is a non-profit that partners with committed governments and local stakeholders to create and implement sustainable ocean plans to benefit communities, the economy, and the environment. The Waitt Institute brings a team of technical experts to help facilitate the policymaking process and capacity building for effective implementation and long-term success through expertise, funding, and tools focusing on marine spatial planning, blue economy, and sustainable fisheries. The Waitt Institute is the founding member and organizing body of the [Blue Prosperity Coalition](#), which currently has Blue Prosperity partnerships with the Azores, Barbuda, Bermuda, Curaçao, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Maldives, Samoa, and Tonga.

The Waitt Institute's sister organization, the Waitt Foundation, specializes in public-private partnership and supports high impact global ocean initiatives with the ultimate goal of sustainable, resilient and thriving seas that benefit all. These organizations were founded and are chaired by Ted Waitt, co-founder of Gateway, Inc.

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