



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

2 Ramsar Site(s) covering 135,515 ha

Qoliqoli Cokovata

Site number: 2331 | Country: Fiji | Administrative region: Northern Division

Area: 134,900 ha | Coordinates: 16°22'S 179°02'21"E | Designation dates: 16-01-2018

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The Site is part of an extensive barrier reef system known as the Great Sea Reef (GSR) or locally as Cakaulevu. At over 260 kilometres in length, the GSR is the third longest continuous barrier reef system in the world. Identified as one of the five marine priority conservation areas in Fiji, it sustains an exceptional wealth of marine biodiversity and endemic species, and supports the food security and livelihoods of local communities, which collectively retain custodial ownership over the fishing grounds. The Qoliqoli Cokovata is the most biodiverse “heart” of the GSR, and so is globally significant. The Site contains a network of a wide range of coral reef forms, associated seagrass beds and mangroves that support foraging and nesting grounds for globally threatened turtle species including hawksbill, green turtles (which are present in significant numbers), leatherbacks and loggerheads. It also supports at least eight globally threatened or near-threatened finfish species such as giant grouper, humphead wrasse and humphead parrotfish. The extensive seagrass beds together with coastal mangroves and mangrove islands are critical habitats and nursery grounds for the commercially important finfish, molluscs, crustaceans and sea cucumbers that support the national economy as well as the local communities. The major threats to the Site include chemical and waste water run-off from a neighbouring settlement, sugarcane farms and a mill. The custodial owners set up the Qoliqoli Cokovata Management Committee, which represents them in Site management decisions.

Upper Navua Conservation Area

Site number: 1612 | Country: Fiji | Administrative region: Viti Levu Island

Area: 615 ha | Coordinates: 18°07'27"S 177°56'52"E | Designation dates: 11-04-2006

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Upper Navua Conservation Area – (UNCA). 11/04/06; Serua; 615 ha; 18°07'28"S 177°56'52"E. The upper Navua River cuts a narrow gorge in the central highlands of Viti Levu, the main island - the gorge itself is some 75 meters deep and 5 to 25 meters wide and hosts important fauna and flora, including an abundance of the disappearing endemic sago palm *Metroxylon vitiense*. The waters of the site contain breeding populations of at least two endemic freshwater fish species (*Redigobius leveri* and *Schismatogobius chrysonotus*), and in the forests surrounding the gorge there are 17 endemic species of birds. Due to its relative inaccessibility, the site is in a nearly undisturbed state, but increased logging in the area poses a potential threat. The land is owned by traditional families and managed on their behalf by the Native Land Trust Board, and is presently leased to Rivers Fiji Ltd, an ecotourism and rafting venture which is designing training and education programmes, among other efforts, in order to develop sustainable ecotourism further. Villagers' centuries-old traditional knowledge of the river and its systems is seen as the foundation for the long-term preservation and sustainable use of the river and near-river resources. Wetlands International - Oceania, Mainstream Environmental, and Rivers Fiji Ltd provided valuable assistance to the government in compiling data for this site designation. Ramsar site no. 1612. Most recent RIS information: 2013.