

Commonwealth Marine Economies Programme

Enabling safe and sustainable marine economies across Commonwealth Small Island Developing States

www.gov.uk/guidance/commonwealth-marine-economies-programme | CME.ProgrammeEnquiries@fco.gov.uk



Funded by
UK Government

The Commonwealth Marine Economies (CME) Programme was announced by the British Prime Minister in 2015 and subsequently launched in 2016.

The aim of this UK Government programme is to support 17 Commonwealth Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in identifying the potential of, and developing, their marine economies (also referred to as blue economies) in a sustainable, resilient and integrated way.

The programme promotes growth, innovation, jobs and investment, whilst safeguarding healthy seas and ecosystems.

In partnership with the SIDS, the programme will develop and implement national Maritime Economy Plans to ensure the Programme leaves a lasting legacy.



The programme is showcasing UK world leading expertise in marine science through its main delivery partners: United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO), the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) and the National Oceanography Centre (NOC).

CME activities are helping to deliver the UK's global commitments to the Commonwealth marine environment and tackling climate change, including the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 14 and the Paris Climate Change Accord.

“ ...I would like to express gratitude for the leadership that the UK Government has demonstrated in supporting the development of blue economies in small island developing states. ”

Hon. Gaston Browne
Prime Minister - Antigua and Barbuda

“ For small states, in particular, the concept of the blue economy presents itself as a promising avenue for economic diversification and growth embedded in fundamental principles of environmental sustainability. ”

Deodat Maharaj, Deputy Secretary-General
(Economic and Social Development), Commonwealth Secretariat




Centre for Environment
Fisheries & Aquaculture
Science

Centre for Environment, Fisheries and
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www.cefas.co.uk


United Kingdom
Hydrographic Office

United Kingdom Hydrographic Office (UKHO)
Admiralty Way, Taunton,
Somerset, TA1 2DN
www.gov.uk/ukho


National
Oceanography Centre
NATURAL ENVIRONMENT RESEARCH COUNCIL

National Oceanography Centre (NOC)
European Way, Southampton, Hampshire,
SO14 3ZH
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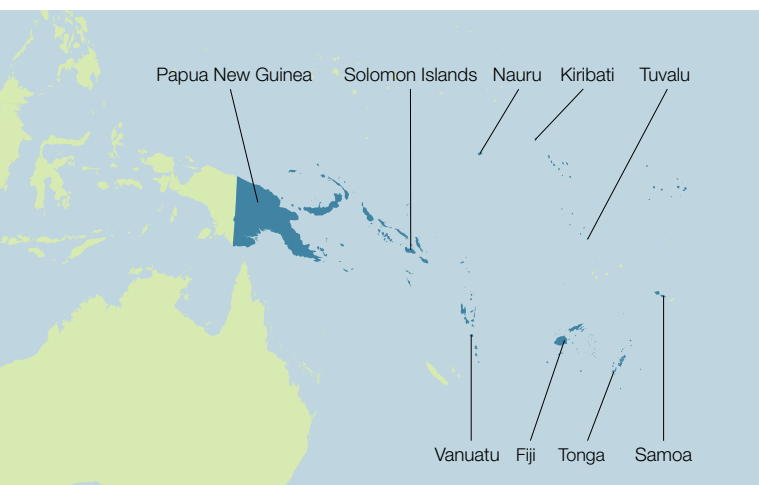
A few examples of the work delivered in support of marine economies since its launch include:

- **Supporting the hurricane relief effort and boosting trade and tourism in Dominica** by installing ocean sensors and tidal gauges to allow safer port movements and access for larger vessels.

“ These surveys will assist us to develop the much needed tourism economy. ”

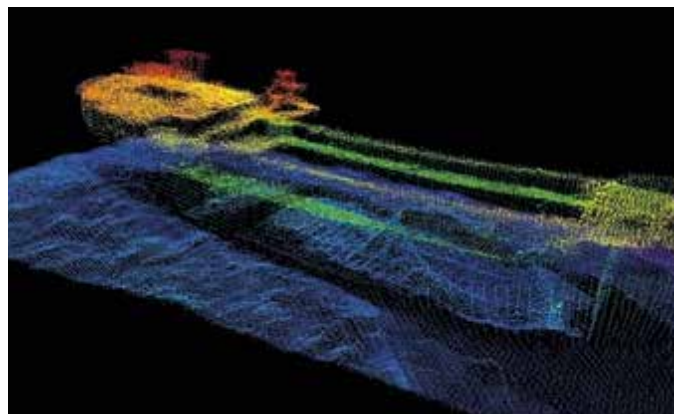
Hon Charlot Salwai TABIMASMAS (MP)
Prime Minister - Vanuatu

- **Safeguarding Belize's citizens and their livelihoods** by installing a tidal gauge to provide coastal hazard warning at the Port of Belize, in Belize City.
- **Supporting the development of a sustainable tourism industry in Fiji** through an analysis of the social and economic value of Fiji's coastal and marine cultural services to foreign visitors.



- **Supporting sustainable growth in Guyana** by helping their wild brown shrimp industry achieve Marine Stewardship Council Certification (sustainability accreditation).
- **Supporting development of Blue Economy in the Seychelles** by providing guidelines that underpin the development of a 'Blue Bond' to support a sustainable fisheries project.
- **Supporting the development of a valuable aquaculture industry for Caribbean Spiny Lobster in St Lucia and the wider Caribbean** through a feasibility study and a pilot project.
- **Supporting priority clean-up activities and coastal planning in the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu** by helping to identify marine litter and pollution hotspots.

- **Increasing navigational safety and efficiency in both the Caribbean and South-West Pacific** through extensive seabed mapping and updating charts, allowing SIDS to better understand and manage their marine assets. This work uncovered many previously uncharted dangers, including a shipwreck in **Grenada** just metres below the surface near the harbour entrance. In **Guyana**, hydrographic mapping of approaches to the main port in the Demerara River has increased the safety of navigation at sea and confidence by shippers to use larger cargo vessels, reducing costs and improving economic activity.



- **Improving compliance with International Conventions** by working with the Governments of **St Vincent and the Grenadines, Grenada** and **Vanuatu** to improve hydrographic governance.
- **Supporting resilient Caribbean Fisheries** by developing a tool which helps Caribbean countries in assessing the vulnerability of their fisheries sectors and to implement national commitments relating to climate resilient fisheries and livelihoods. This supports a wider ongoing initiative which has developed a Caribbean climate risk insurance product enabling vulnerable fishing communities to recover after often devastating climatic disasters.

