



Khaled bin Sultan

LIVING OCEANS Foundation

8181 Professional Place • Suite 215 • Landover, MD 20785

SCIENCE WITHOUT BORDERS®

Living Oceans Foundation Concludes Month-long Scientific Study in Fiji

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For Immediate Release

LANDOVER, MD. – The Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation has wrapped up a month-long coral reef research expedition in Fiji. Travelling onboard the research ship *M/Y Golden Shadow* as part of the Foundation's Global Reef Expedition the marine scientists have been collecting data underwater on reefs round Totoya, Moala, Vanua Vatu, Fulaga, and Kabara among many others.

While it will take many months to write up full scientific reports there are some initial findings of the research. Of note is that many of the corals are under threat from coral eating snails. Chief scientist of the Foundation, and leader of the scientific research, Dr. Andrew Bruckner said. "Snail predation is the most significant and widespread threat we have seen to the reefs in Lau Province, and the problem might be caused by human activities, such as fishing"

The research team included several Fijian participants and Fisheries officer William Saladrau collected data on sea cucumber harvesting and found that numbers were low. He states "We are finding less than one sea cucumber per hectare, this shows that there is overfishing of sea cucumbers across the Lau Province.

At the same time as the scientists were conducting the research the Foundation's education director, Amy Heemsoth, along with Roko Sau, visited many schools and villages to share information about the health of the reefs They encouraged the villages to create environmental committees that will help managing their marine resources.

About the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation

Founded by HRH Prince General Khaled bin Sultan of Saudi Arabia, the Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation was incorporated in California as a 501(c)(3), public benefit, Private Operating Foundation in September 2000. With its headquarters in Washington DC, the Living Oceans Foundation is dedicated to the conservation and restoration of oceans of the world, and champions their preservation through research, education, and a commitment to *Science Without Borders*®.

For more information, visit www.livingoceansfoundation.org and www.globalreefexpedition.com. Find us on Facebook (www.facebook.com/livingoceansfoundation) or Twitter (@livingoceansfdn).

Science Without Borders® is registered to the Foundation for financial sponsorship of marine conservation programs and scientific research and to promote public awareness of the need to preserve, protect and restore the world's oceans and aquatic resources.

Media Contact:

Alison Barrat

Director of Communications

Khaled bin Sultan Living Oceans Foundation

Barrat@livingoceansfoundation.org

301 577 1288 x 204

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