

Vanuatu's Key Biodiversity Areas: Futuna

Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs)

Sites qualify as global KBAs if they meet one or more of 11 criteria, clustered into five categories: threatened biodiversity; geographically restricted biodiversity; ecological integrity; biological processes; and, irreplaceability. The KBA criteria can be applied to species and ecosystems in terrestrial, inland water and marine environments, and must be confirmed by the KBA Secretariat. Vanuatu has 27 KBAs in total.

Threatened Species

Vanuatu has a total of 138 species that have been identified as threatened or near threatened on the IUCN Red List. The Threatened Species Project has received funding from CEPF to work with 27 of the threatened species. Four of these 27 threatened species are found on Futuna's land or in its surrounding waters. They include:

Endemic

- Bangulu Palm

Found only in Vanuatu and one other country

- Palm Lorikeet

Widely distributed

- Green Turtle
- Hawksbill Turtle

Why is this Island Special?

In Vanuatu, CEPF has chosen six priority sites out of the 27 KBAs, including Futuna. Futuna is an important island as the endemic Bangulu Palm grows there. The Bangulu Palm is listed as Critically Endangered and is native on Tanna, Futuna and Aneityum, but have been introduced to many other islands.

Futuna is also home to the endemic Futuna Skink, found nowhere else in the world except Vanuatu. This species lives on trees in the forest. It is currently listed as vulnerable to extinction as it only occurs on one other island, Aniwa, and its habitat is at risk from logging. While it is a threatened species, it is not one of the prioritised species of this project.



Palm Lorikeet
Source: Ray Pierce Pacific



Futuna
Source: Google Maps

