

Partners in Community Development Fiji

Working to empower communities by assisting them to make informed decisions for their future development.

RA KAKA NEWSLETTER



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Serua District takes lead in protecting and monitoring Marine areas

From June 6th-7th, members of the NRM team spent time in Serua District to complete the installation of Yanuca's Marine Protected Area (MPA) markers. The markers demarcate the territory where marine life is protected to replenish natural resources.

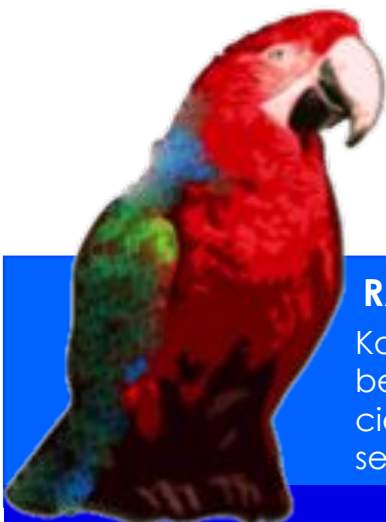


Screening the Yanuca Marine Protected Area

Together with the Yanuca Fish wardens and the Turaga ni Koro, Sireli Kuga, NRM officers Sete and Ilisoni were able to gather Trochus clams from the wild to restock in their MPA. A total of 20 clams were collected from Yanuca's Kavukavu Reef, one of the furthest reefs of Yanuca. Serua has been very active in monitoring their fishing grounds, MPA's and village clean ups in the removal of Crown of thorns (COTs) during low tide.

Serua's fish wardens have also been working with the Police in confiscating poaching gears from within their MPAs.

We salute Yanuca and Serua district communities for taking the initiative in the protection and conservation of their marine resources.



RA KAKA

Kaka is Kadavu for parrot. Kadavu Province is the home of the beautiful shining parrot, 'prosopaea splendens', an endemic species. The Kaka is a messenger not only on land but also on sea - it serves as a communicator for God's living creatures.

Finance and Admin update

After receiving an **Infra-structural Grant** from AusAid last month, successful discussions and meetings with the Review Team have also resulted in the extension of **AusAid Core Funding** for the next 12 months - until June 2012.

PCDF is very thankful to AusAid for the assistance and trust in our organisation and the work that we do.

We continue to have on-going meetings with Donors on new projects

STAFF NEWS

Farewell to NRM Programme Officer Watisoni, who is joining SPC in New Caledonia for a year!

On June 30th, PCDF bid farewell to Watisoni Sokiveta, a project officer with the NRM Team. Watisoni leaves to commence a one year attachment with SPC Noumea's Inshore Fisheries Programme. Watisoni was a valuable member of the NRM team and was the officer in charge of the Batici project. We congratulate him on this attachment and look forward to working with him again in the near future.



Sewing Machines provide economic empowerment to village women

By Talica Anderson

The Women's Group of Wainilotulevu in Namosi has recently been provided with two sewing machines by the Ministry of Women. The machines represent a big step towards economic sustainability and empowerment, enabling the women to pursue new sources of income and reduce reliability on cash crops.

The Group has put the sewing machines to use by producing a variety of materials ranging from curtains to bed sheets, and successfully selling their crafts to nearby communities with all earnings going back into their group account. The women have also used their new skills to decorate community halls and churches.

The initiative has had many side benefits, for example children's



*Above: Members of the Women's Group
Right: One of the sewing machines*

school uniforms no longer have to be bought from the nearest shop, which is a two-hour walk away. It represents progress towards the improvement of livelihoods and eradication of Poverty by 2015, as called for by the Millennium Development Goals.



NRM NEWS

Workshop refreshes environmental knowledge in traditional Yasawa communities

By Alexandra Schiffmann

Amidst the tourist complexes and backpacker resorts of the Yasawa islands lie a group of villages whose lifestyles couldn't be more different from those of their glamorous neighbours. However, many such communities have become economically dependant on the tourism sector, and in the process have lost traditional knowledge of their natural resources.

In June, PCDF and representatives from the Fisheries Department held a Marine and Fisheries Awareness workshop to 36 participants on Waya island, to revive this knowledge and encourage sustainable income-generating practices in the communities.

As Fiji's prime tourist destination, the Yasawas attract thousands of visitors every year. Many resorts have established a mutually beneficial relationship with their neighbouring communities, however, these relationships have also introduced Western lifestyles and consumer values into traditional Fijian societies.

As indigenous communities have become increasingly reliant on the tourism sector as a primary source of income, traditional knowledge of the environment and resources has been eroded. This knowledge is in critical need of revival if it is to ensure the protection of the land and its natural resources, and encourage sustainable sources of income for local communities.



Top: Yalobi village on Waya island, where the workshop took place

Bottom: Group photo of the workshop participants on Day 1

There is a pressing need to redistribute traditional knowledge amongst the people

Government and Civil Society are working closely together to address the pressing need to redistribute traditional knowledge amongst the people, and in particular, to encourage its development amongst younger generations.

At the workshop on Waya Island, the thirty-six village representatives, selected by their respective villages, listened attentively to the different speakers from PCDF and the Fisheries Department and held open and lively discussions about different aspects of resource management.

The group, a good mix of men, women and youth, threw themselves into group activities designed to examine the potential of land resources, before presenting their findings to the ...

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other attendees; sharing experience and knowledge.

Participants drew posters of their village environment to reaffirm the location and potential of specific resources, and reinforce the knowledge of their natural surroundings.

The presence of experienced persons representing the Fisheries sector was also vital to the success of the workshop, and a practical demonstration taught participants about fish handling and processing. The Fisheries facilitators showed participants the optimal temperature of fish before and after storage and illustrated the importance of storing the fish in brine solution, to preserve its freshness for the market.

Workshop participant Amelia Tui-cakau reflected, "this workshop was very helpful and very good. We are from the island-villages so we don't know many of these things – and it's difficult to learn more about it."

"What we have learnt during the workshop will be of great help, especially to the youth – the knowledge has to be passed on to later generations in the village, so we can better use our natural resources and generate income."

"We are teaching skills that should be passed down by the people themselves - naturally"

A representative from the Fisheries Department commented "we are teaching knowledge that should be passed down by the people themselves - naturally. But changes in lifestyle and the introduction of western mentality have altered this."



Top left: Workshop participants engaging in group work

Top right: During a session on Fish Handling and Processing the Fisheries Facilitators measured the internal temperature of a fish before and after storage in brine solution, to illustrate how to keep fish fresh for longer.

Bottom: Children playing on the beach at Yalobi village, where the workshop took place

"These communities are so far away from the mainland that they are easily forgotten – it is important that we come out here and work with the villages to revive their knowledge, to help them for the future."

PCDF successfully runs its Natural Resource Management (NRM) programme in 26 communities across Fiji. Emphasising the importance of NRM, Programme

Manager Matilita Kedrayate asserts, "Fiji's ecosystems are very rich and natural resources play a key role in supporting its economic development."

"Our programme works with communities to protect their resources while at the same time providing training and guidance on how to generate income from our natural surroundings. This is a big step in helping Fiji's communities become self-reliant in the long-term."



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