



Fiji



# COUNTRY BRIEF

## Project Site Activities

In March 2019, a GCCA + SUPA inception and planning workshop was held. The Fiji SUPA project key stakeholders selected coastal protection as the project focus. The Soasoa Drainage area in Labasa was then selected as the project site. Therefore, USP will focus its implementation in the Province of Macuata. Climate-resilient infrastructure is critical for adaptation, particularly in coastal and flood-prone areas. It serves to protect communities against hazards such as sea-level rise, saltwater intrusion, tidal surges, flooding, and coastal erosion. The need to scale up the existing infrastructure and capacity building is paramount, especially in ensuring climate-resilient communities. The proposed activity supports the Government of Fiji's development goals and adaptation priorities to enhance the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change by providing climate-resilient infrastructures via scaling up the community's current infrastructure and capacity building.

In consultation with the Ministry of the Rural Maritime and Development and Macuata Provincial Council, in Macuata Division, the Development Plan was identified as a priority area for USP SUPA to assist in. The division and the province do not have a development plan.

## Progress

Activities	Status	
Desktop Review	✓	Completed
Participatory Needs Assessment	✓	On-going
Outreach and Awareness Raising	✓	On-going
Identification of Change Agents	✓	On-going
Consultation with Ministries	✓	On-going
Identification of Training Needs	✓	On-going
Training as per the identified need	✓	Ongoing
Identification of local development plan	✓	Completed
Implementation of development plans	✓	ongoing

## Government Ministry Consultations

Since the project inception, the RCO has been in constant communication and consultation with the following government and provincial stakeholders regarding the project:

- Ministry of Rural and Maritime and Development at the Ministerial level
- Ministry of Rural and Maritime and Development at the Divisional Level
- Ministry of Waterways at the Divisional level
- Pacific Community Fiji Project Coordinator
- Ministry of Itaukei Affairs at the Provincial level
- USP Labasa Campus- Management



## Desktop Review

The Research Community Officer (RCO) for the GCCA+SUPA project delivered the desktop review providing a snapshot of the local government's capacity to address climate change in specific areas, including governance and social systems disaster risk management and capacity development. The reports analyzed these areas and made recommendations on potential capacity-building options to enhance community resilience to pose threats of climate change and disasters. The Participatory Needs Assessment (PNA) stakeholder consultation facilitated detailed discussions on the recommendations prioritizing the target audience's training needs.

## Local Development Plans/Island Strategic Development Plans

The Northern Development Plan and the Macuata Provincial Development plan will be the prime focus of the SUPA project at the divisional level. The development of the plan will align with the:

- Green growth framework
- National Development plan
- Ministry of Rural and Maritime and Development Strategic Plan
- National Disaster plan
- Fiji Climate change Policy
- Fiji National Adaptation Plan
- Framework for Resilience Development Program

At the ministerial and divisional level discussion, the RCO discusses the need to ensure climate change and disaster risk management into the plan.

## Challenges and Solutions

### Disaster

The execution of activities by the RCO was delayed by two Tropical cyclones, TC Yasa and TC Ana. Both cyclones affected Macuata Province extensively. The government and other stakeholders for the SUPA project had diverted their focus and priority on humanitarian assistance for those affected by the cyclone. This RCO was involved in humanitarian assistance in the province of Macuata.



## COVID-19

COVID-19 cause a delay in the implementation of the SUPA project activities at the Macuata Division. A lockdown was imposed in Macuata due to a positive case in Soasoa, the SPC SUPA project site.

## Lessons Learnt

- ✓ It is critical to conduct proper consultation and support of a donor-funded at the Ministerial level before proceeds to the Divisional level.
- ✓ The USP SUPA component project must continue to close collaboration with the SPC component, community stakeholders, leaders, and national government stakeholders.
- ✓ Proper understanding of the government structure and protocol ease implementation.



## Financial Summary

Item/Activity	Total Budget Allocation (EUR)	Year 1 & 2 Actual (EUR)	Balance (EUR)
(2.1) Mobilisation and outreach on climate and disaster resilience with local area stakeholders in intervention areas	21,000	2,716	18,284
(2.2) Provision of training in resilient development to local area stakeholders	16,500	-	16,500
(2.3) Mainstream and integrate climate change and disaster risk management in sub-national sustainable development plans e.g. island plans	15,500	-	15,500
(2.4) Enhance the capacity to implement, monitor and evaluate sub-national sustainable development plans e.g. island plans	10,656	-	10,656
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,656</b>	<b>2,716</b>	<b>60,940</b>



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