

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN FIJI



Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA)

Scaling up the Soasoa drainage system, Labasa, Fiji



Project focus: Coastal Protection



Project timeframe



1 January 2019- 30 June 2023

National implementing agencies



Climate Change and International Cooperation Division- Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Waterways and Environment

Beneficiaries



Direct benefit: **4,140 persons**

Indirect benefit: **35,947 persons**

Fiji is vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and natural disasters.

Project synopsis

The 'Scaling up the Soasoa drainage system, Fiji' project will enhance the efforts of previous projects to protect vulnerable coastal communities in the Macuata Province, especially the Soasoa community in Labasa, from coastal flooding and inundation through implementation of prioritized flood control measures in the Soasoa watershed area.

How does this project address climate change adaptation in Fiji?

In the Soasoa drainage area levees protect the reclaimed area and a series of floodgates discharge water during low tide. The infrastructure was designed in the 1970s and there is now a need to strengthen this infrastructure to address changes in the climate such as rising sea levels, changing rainfall patterns and extreme rainfall events and associated runoff.

This adaptation measure supports the Fijian Government's efforts to enhance the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities to climate change, articulated in the 5 and 20-Year National Development Plan, the National Climate Change Policy and the National Adaptation Plan.

Focusing on the people and communities living in the Soasoa watershed area, the project will adopt a participatory and inclusive approach that addresses the vulnerabilities and the rights of all residents. Skills in climate resilience will be enhanced, particularly for provincial and district government officers and community leaders.

The project will focus on constructing prioritized flood control measures such as flood gates and raising the levees, upgrading of existing spillways and widening of channels along the Soasoa drainage area.

Management of the Soasoa watershed to complement hard flood control infrastructure will be a key component of the project. A 30-year (2020 – 2050) watershed management plan for the Soasoa watershed will be developed, in consultation with communities and stakeholders, and will be supported by an action plan.



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The project is working with communities to prepare an integrated watershed management plan and constructing hard flood control infrastructure at the Soasoa Drainage Basin in Labasa.

Key Highlights

Strengthening coastal protection measures



- Conducting a topographical survey of the Soasoa watershed area to inform the watershed management plan and the prioritization and selection of the flood control measures.
- Developing detailed engineering designs for the flood control measures including one flood gate, one flap gate, raising the levee by 0.2m, and widening of the river channel.
- Undertaking environmental screening and the preparation of an environmental management plan.
- Construction of the prioritized flood control measures.

Building community resilience



- Building the capacity of community leaders and provincial and district council members in climate resilience through accredited training.
- Assessing provincial and district development plans to identify entry points for climate and disaster resilience.
- Preparing a communications plan to guide the involvement of the community in the watershed management plan.

Strategic planning



- Assessing the impacts of past climate change adaptation projects and applying the results to national strategic planning.
- Integrating climate change into an integrated watershed management plan for the Soasoa drainage area.
- Enabling national sector agencies prepare comparable cost estimates for the measures prioritized in the National Adaptation Plan 2021-2025

Activities meet the following SDGs:



About the SUPA project

The Global Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project is about scaling up climate change adaptation measures in specific sectors supported by knowledge management and capacity building. The 4.5-year project (2019-2023) is funded with € 14.89 million from the European Union (EU) and implemented by the Pacific Community (SPC) in partnership with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and The University of the South Pacific (USP), in collaboration with the governments and peoples of Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Tonga and Tuvalu.

The **Overall Objective** of the GCCA+ SUPA project is to enhance climate change adaptation and resilience within ten Pacific island countries.

The **Specific Objective** is to strengthen the implementation of sector-based, but integrated, climate change and disaster risk management strategies and plans.