Action Plan (continued)

Control of sedimentation

- Prepare and implement a reforestation and revegetation programme.
- Restore and enhance the area covered by mangroves.

Solid waste management

- Create awareness about solid waste management.
- Training of litter prevention officers.
- Establish a community solid waste management programme.

Strengthening local governance structure

- Establishment of a Soasoa Watershed Management Committee to guide implementation of the plan.
- Establish and train local community enforcement officers.

Control of disease outbreaks

- Awareness and clean-up campaigns in communities.
- Establish waste disposal site
- Encourage 3R's - reduce, reuse and recycle.

The Implementation of the Action Plan

The implementation of the action plan will start in 2022 with funding sought from government agencies, private sector, international development partners, NGO's with the full involvement of communities in the Soasoa Watershed.

Project Background

The Soasoa Integrated Watershed Management Plan has been formulated under the European Union funded Global Climate Change Alliance Plus – Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+ SUPA) project.

The "Scaling up of the Soasoa drainage system, Labasa, Fiji" is managed by the Pacific Community (SPC) and implemented nationally by the Fiji Department of Waterways and the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division.

GCCA+

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE

Funded by the European Union

SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (SUPA)

Pacific Community
Communauté du Pacifique

www.gccasupa.org

SOASOA / VUNIVAU/ BASOGA

INTEGRATED WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

2021 - 2051

What it means?

Integrated Watershed Management is the approach of combining biological, physical, and social aspects within the boundaries of a particular watershed to obtain the desired goods and services in a sustainable manner.

What is the goal?

The Integrated Watershed Management Plan has been developed to maintain and improve the health and wellbeing of the Soasoa Watershed community including:

- its natural resources
- its environment, biodiversity, and ecosystem services
- the wellbeing of the watershed's community
- natural flood regulation

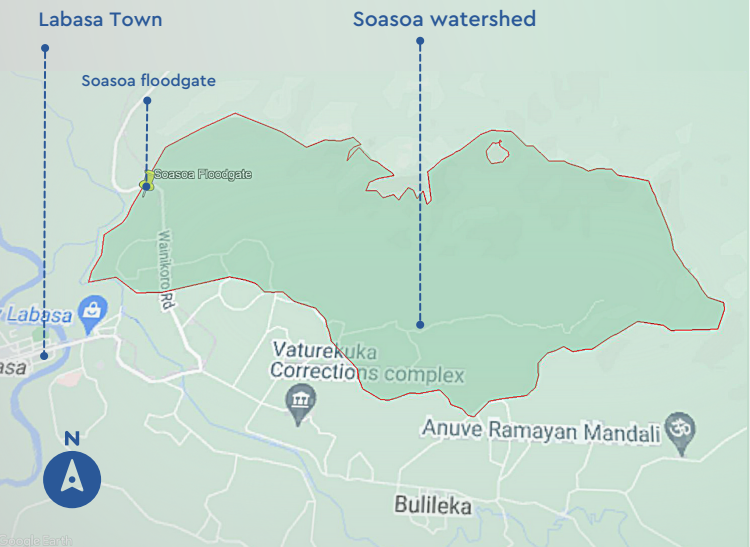
How was it developed?

The plan was developed through extensive consultations with a wide range of stakeholders including communities, farmers, the private sector, civil society organizations and government departments combined with the best scientific knowledge.

Why the Soasoa Watershed?

Soasoa, located just outside Labasa, is known for its frequent flooding during heavy rainfall events which has devastating impacts including damages to agriculture, infrastructure and livelihoods.

- The Soaosa Watershed is characterized by mountain chains along the southern end while flood plains occur towards the seaward end.
- Runoff from the upper mountainous catchment flows towards the lower floodplain areas via creeks and streams and drains into the Qawa river.
- Heavy rainfall events that cause flooding include low pressure systems, storms and cyclones which result in large downpours in a short time.
- Climate change is further aggravating the flood issue with increasing frequency and intensity of heavy rainfall events.
- Soasoa drainage scheme includes a series of floodgates, flap-gates and levees that is now out of date and cannot handle current discharge rates.
- The Soasoa catchment includes several villages and settlements with extensive sugarcane farms which are negatively affected by flooding.
- Unsustainable farming practices in the catchment including clearing of riverbank vegetation, trees and forests.



Status of the Soasoa Watershed

The Soasoa watershed has been highly modified by human related activities resulting in an overall degraded state of the natural environment. This in turn has diminished the ecosystem goods and services that mitigated flooding.

Agricultural expansion

New land is being cleared for agricultural expansion. This involves removal of natural vegetation including forests, grasslands, trees, and plants.

Farming and livestock grazing up to the edge of the riverbank is also common within the Soasoa Watershed. This is causing erosion and sedimentation resulting in clogging of waterways and increased flooding.

Poor solid waste management

The disposal of solid waste into the waterways has been identified as a major cause of environment degradation. Solid waste that washes downstream clog up flood control systems contributing to flooding.

Social and health issues

There is a negative impact of flooding on communities including stress, overcrowding & unemployment.

Regular disease outbreaks including Leptospirosis, Typhoid, Dengue and Diarrhoea (LTTD).

The Action Plan

In addressing the status of the Soasoa Watershed, an action plan has been developed. The action plan has management measures that can be categorized into four areas:

01	02	03
PROTECTION STRATEGIES	CONSERVATION STRATEGIES	COMMUNITY STRATEGIES
Flood control infrastructure	Conserving and rehabilitating environmental resources.	Communities own and lead implementation

The main measures that have been formulated to improve the overall health and sustainability of the watershed :

Flood control infrastructure

- Construction of flood gates, trash racks and culverts.
- Construction of trash racks at key locations.
- Raising the levee along the most vulnerable areas.

Riverbank restoration

- Create awareness about the riverbank zone and its importance in the watershed.
- Prepare riverbank zone restoration plan.
- Restore riverbank zones within the watershed.
- Create awareness & implementation of proper livestock and pastoral management.