



**GCCA+**  
THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS INITIATIVE



Funded by  
the European Union

**SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (SUPA)**

# Vunivau Awareness and Community Consultation Report



March, 2022

## 1. Introductions

The overall objective of the Fiji component of the project is to enhance the resilience of vulnerable coastal communities in the Macuata province through comprehensive planning and scaled up infrastructure. The project has developed a 30-year Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) that will guide the future management of the Soasoa catchment and drainage area over the time frame to 2050. Using this plan as a guide, the project aims to build resilience, especially to coastal inundation and flooding through the upgrading of coastal protection measures. The project's on-the-ground activities aim to build the resilience of the assets and communities living close to the Soasoa drainage area to coastal flooding.

To initiate the implementation of Soasoa IWMP, at least one/or two management measures that are articulated within the Soasoa watershed management will be undertaken. Measures of consideration include planting of Vetiver plants along riparian zones for instance, along the Nasuva creek river embankments. The awareness and consultation workshop with the Vunivau community was conducted to enable the first phase implementation of the Soasoa IWMP and will benefit the people of Vunivau village and adjacent settlements. Community members participated to identify initial measures to implement with assistance from SPC and Ministry of Waterways (MoWE).

This report provides an overview of the content and discussions involved in the two-day awareness and consultation workshop that was conducted with key stakeholders in the Vunivau village. The objective of the consultation workshop was to (i) create awareness amongst Vunivau villagers on the IWMP including the action plan, (ii) consult Vunivau villages to determine the first on-ground activity to implement the IWMP including the date and site and (iii) undertake media and communication work including photo and video shooting and interviews.

The two-day consultation was conducted on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> March, 2021 and key stakeholders that were represented included the Vunivau village and adjacent settlements, the Ministry of Waterways (MoWE), and the GCCA+SUPA project Team – Pacific Community (SPC).

## 2. Day 1 session: 23rd March 2021 (Wednesday)

The Day 1 consultation was an informal session held only with the 7 households that make up the Vunivau settlement. The consultation was attended by men, women and youth. It was encouraging to see that women and youth made up the majority of the participants.

The Turaga-ni-Koro- of the Vunivau Village opened the discussion and welcomed the participants and the SPC team. He provided a brief introduction of the project and the aim for the 2-day consultations.



The SPC team distributed the pamphlet and posters to the participant and provided updates regarding the ongoing flood control infrastructure at Soaso (flood gates, trash rack, culverts, and raising the levee). A summary of the IWMP was provided and emphasis was put on the implementation of the plan.. The community was informed that the project had about a year left in implementation and it was important that the community members, with the support of the project and partner government agencies, are fully involved in the implementation of the pilot activities.



Discussion continued on the identification of two initial measures and from the responses of those present it was clear that the community was in favour of trialling the planting of Vieiver grass and make efforts to better manage solid waste management.

The activities for the first-day consultation were as follows:

### **Day 1 consultation**

- Briefing with Turaga-ni-Koro- Vunivau Village
- Traditional protocol (Sevusevu)
- Informal gathering at Vunivau Hall with community members (6 pm)
- Talanoa session with villages on the final IWMP
- Afternoon Tea
- Wrap-up for Day 1

### **Discussions**

Some of the issues highlighted by the villagers were:

a) Waste disposal around the Nasuva Creek banks. Villagers highlighted that there are measures in place within the Vunivau village that help them manage their solid waste, these include monthly clean up campaigns and having a communal pit for burying. The villages however raised concerns about people outside of the village coming and throwing rubbish at the creek, mostly at night. They also highlighted that rubbish thrown by communities living on the other banks, for example villagers on subdivision lots, ends up in the creek as well.

b) Turaga-ni-Koro- Vunivau Village advised that discussions with Architects Without Frontiers (AWF) Australia are underway for reallocation of the Vunivau settlement (7 households) because of constant flooding. Drafting of the master plan is in progress for the reallocation.

### **3. Day 2: 24th March 2021 (Thursday)**



The Day 2 consultation involved participants from the main Vunivau village and the adjacent villages (Vunivaivai, Natovokamo, Namako, and Leku). Men, women and youth attended the consultation and took part in the discussions and group activity.

Pamphlets were distributed to the participants and a short presentation was done by the SPC team on the Soasoa Integrated IWMP. SPC team introduced a handout (poster) with some of the main measures that the communities can undertake as per the Soasoa Integrated IWMP.

The main highlight of the day 2 consultation was the group activity where the participants presented and discussed the activities they preferred to implement.



### **Results from group discussion:**

Community Actions:

#### a) Health:

- ✓ Destroy breeding grounds for mosquitoes e.g., tins, tyres, burying of still waters.
- ✓ Prevent unnecessary littering, have awareness campaigns
- ✓ Stopchemical weeding of drains
- ✓ Provide proper waste disposals such as dumpsters.

#### b) Conservation of riverbanks

- ✓ Planting Vetiver grass to prevent soil erosion
- ✓ Creating awareness of afforestation
- ✓ Minimizing deforestation

### **Outcome**

The two common activities identified by all the groups was providing planting Vetiver grass to prevent soil erosion and the provision of proper waste disposal bins (dumpster).

The consultation ended with the Turanga Turaga-ni-Koro- Vunivau Village agreeing and confirming on behalf of the village members to go ahead with the planting of Vetiver plants along river embankments - Nasuva creek. The suggestion was made that the implementation take place after April once the rainy season has passed to avoid flooding. The date for implementation of the vetiver grass therefore will be discussed after April 2022.

The project team advised the villagers that an action plan will be prepared to carry out the implementation. Providing waste disposal bins will require community action on matters such as ensuring rubbish collection on time and paying garbage collection fees by leasing with the local municipal council. As for the planting of Vetiver grass, the Ministry of Waterways has a Vetiver nursery in Labasa and this could be utilised for the implementation of this measure with their assistance.

### **Conclusion**

By undertaking this trip and carrying out community consultations and awareness within the village of Vunivau, the SPC team was able to explain the key messages of the Soasoa IWMP, especially the action plan which provides a guideline on measures to be undertaken in improving the status of the watershed.

Villages were able to understand the Soasoa IWMP better through the discussions, presentations, and explanations given. The pamphlet and handout were a key tool in creating much-needed awareness of the IWMP as it was widely distributed to the community members. Engaging with the communities and villagers of Vunivauin the selection of the activities to be undertaken as part of the first phase of on-ground implementation of the IWMP, is contributing to building community ownership of the watershed and long term sustainability.



## Appendix 1: Agenda

### Global Climate Change Alliance Plus - Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA + SUPA) Project

#### Vunivau Awareness and Consultation Workshop

24<sup>th</sup> March 2022

#### Agenda

**Meeting Objective:** To select preliminary activities to implement the Watershed Management Plan

	<b>OPENING SESSIONS</b>
8:30 – 8:35	Welcome and Prayer
8:35 – 8:40	Opening remarks and introductions – Mr. Jese Midralawa
8:40 – 9:00	Meeting Objective and short introductions
	<b>PRESENTATION OF WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN</b>
9:00 – 9:10	• 10 Mins presentation explaining the Scope/Implementation of the Watershed Management Plan
9:10 – 9:20	• Short description of day 1 and outcomes <i>Mr. Rahul Tikaram, MoW</i>
9:20 – 9:50	Morning Tea
	<b>VISUAL PRESENTATION OF POTENTIAL COMMUNITY ACTION</b>
9:50 – 10:25	• Highlight two main activities that can be done by the communities – Mr. Zhiyad Khan and Mr. Jovesa Naisua
	Small-Group Activity
10:25 – 11:15	• Participants to discuss/record two actions they would like to do • Present and selection of activities for 2020 to March 2023.
	<b>WAY FORWARD</b>
11:15 – 11:45	Discussions – Ms. Swastika Raju
	<b>MEETING CLOSURE</b>
11:45 -11:55	Closing remark
1155 – 12:00	Evaluation
12:00	Lunch
	Informal discussion/Talanoa Session

## Appendix 2: Participants List

### Day 1

The GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS: SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (GCCA+ SUPA) Project - Scaling up the Soasoa drainage system, Fiji.  
 Awareness/consultation workshop Day 1, Vunivau Village, 23/03/2022  
 For the Soasoa/Vunivau/Basoga Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) (2021- 2051)

	Name	Organization	Gender	Email/phone	Signature
1	Joni Madralawa	Vunivau vilag	M	9593505	[Signature]
2	JONE FOUXI	✓	M	9467542	[Signature]
3	Ratu Jone Makali	✓	M	7436133	[Signature]
4	Adi Losalini Yalaxala makali	✓	F	8467820	[Signature]
5	Ratu Koreni Wagaqabiti makali	✓	M	7052792	[Signature]
6	Maureen Rokobakalevu	✓	F	743205	[Signature]
7	Dula KELEWANI	✓	F	9595157	[Signature]
8	Mareta Vulewai	✓	F	9617976	[Signature]
9	Dr. Makali Finau	✓	M	"	[Signature]
10	Stephano V. Finau	✓	M	"	[Signature]
11	Jesse M. Finau	✓	M	"	[Signature]
12	Lurisa Dwaqa	✓	F	7333788	[Signature]
13	SALOME SOKA	✓	F	"	[Signature]
14	WATISONI WAINI MALA	✓	M	"	[Signature]
15	Uniasi Dilawo	✓	F	9467592	[Signature]
16	Iliesa Kuruwara	✓	M	9467592	[Signature]
17	Senuniasa Kunura	✓	F	9144202	[Signature]
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### Day 2

The GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS: SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (GCCA+ SUPA) Project - Scaling up the Soasoa drainage system, Fiji.  
 Awareness/consultation workshop Day 2, Vunivau Village, 24/03/2022  
 For the Soasoa/Vunivau/Basoga Integrated Watershed Management Plan (IWMP) (2021- 2051)

	Name	Organization	Gender	Email/phone	Signature
1	Brahmic Raju Singh	Vunivau	M	9049135	[Signature]
2	Prodee Lakshya Prathihar	Vunivau	M	9608932	[Signature]
3	Joni Madralawa	✓	M	9593505	[Signature]
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6	Velisa Dwaqa	✓	F	914202	[Signature]
7	Stephano V. Finau	Vunivau	F	8316686	[Signature]
8	Deo Kumar	✓	M	8316626	[Signature]
9	Ratu Koreni	✓	M	9084461	[Signature]
10	Kivani Tings	✓	M	242969	[Signature]
11	Senuniasa Kunura	✓	F	9144202	[Signature]
12	Kavea Dwaqa	✓	F	9595157	[Signature]
13	Dula KELEWANI	✓	F	9595157	[Signature]
14	Maureen Rokobakalevu	✓	F	743205	[Signature]
15	Alisha Dwaqa	✓	M	9593505	[Signature]
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