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AusAID PROJECT PROGRESS BRIEF

"Building Resilience: Strengthening community adaptation measures to effects of climate change in the Fiji Islands"

November 2011

Purpose: To provide information on progress of AusAID funded project "Building resilience: Strengthening community adaptation measures to effects of climate change in the Fiji Islands" for the purpose of factsheet preparation to its representatives in readiness for the Durban meet.

A summary of the overall project progress- 2011 Initial phase:

1. Communications Planning workshop for media contacts, 11-12 May @Raintree Lodge. Workshop report and initial development of Communication plan and strategy for the project.
2. A mangrove advisory brief was drafted based on documents - "the Fiji National Mangrove Management Plans I-II" in response to recommendations from National Climate Change Country Team when WWF presented final GEF global project outcomes. A guiding draft document in development stage as guidance towards the protection of mangrove areas in key localities as highlighted by the abovementioned documents.
3. WWF SPPO was invited and project coordinator as panelist "Lessons for Future Action Conference" for SIDS under the theme- Community based responses, strategies and on-ground options. SPREP hosted this conference in partnership with the Australian government, Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency in Samoa during period 23-26 May, 2011. WWF SPPO's allocated topic is "Scaling up to national, regional and global support & sustainability considerations of climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction".



4. Provincial Target setting process workshops. * Ba provincial workshop was held on 27-29 June at Namoli village, Lautoka in collaboration with Ba Provincial Office. There was 100% participation from the 21 tikina, youth and women reps of Ba province with representation from the Ministry of Women, Division of Strategic Planning, OISCA and Ministry of I-taukei Affairs. The summation of outcomes for Ba (and Macuata) highlighted a vulnerability assessment process with a scope on LandCare initiatives led by Land Use Planning Unit, River Care led by LLEE and the mangroves for coastal resilience led by WWF. The Ba catchment landscape is the top priority focusing on the main waterway for RiverCare effort to begin from Toge river junction down to the delta mangroves within a 500m buffer zone spanning 8 villages and 2 settlement communities. Land Use Planning Unit prioritised 6 districts linked to the Ba catchment for its land use & awareness surveys and pre-selection for establishment of model farms. WWF will take the lead in conservation and adaptation activities in the Ba delta mangroves and its adjacent communities.

* Macuata provincial workshop was held on 6-8 July at Labasa in collaboration with Macuata Provincial Office. A 90% participation (Cikobia was absent) from the 12 tikina, youth, women reps and similar government representation plus Forestry, Labasa town officials (Health Inspector), Provincial Development. The prioritisation of targets in Macuata was on the basis of the globally significant biodiverse Great Sea Reef within the vicinity of a nationally important delta of mangroves that is situated adjacent to Labasa. The site selection were on the basis of Land use planning unit's national targets to conduct its land care-based activities in the Labasa catchment and LLEE involvement to conduct RiverCare activities within a pre-selection of village/settlement communities along the main Labasa, Dreketi and Tabia catchments.

5. Collaboration with National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). Labasa town is the municipal site for resilience building activities supported under this AusAID project. A workplan development session with the NDMO director and his team (policy & awareness raising) highlighted key aspects for consideration. An outline of 'disaster' element activities have been enlisted for NDMO's involvement and this partnership started at the launch during Natural Disaster Awareness week on October 11-14, at Labasa.



6. Development of communication products. Preliminary investigation on potential climate witnesses, champions of river-care, land-care are ongoing whilst the vulnerability assessment process has begun at the Labasa and Ba region. Communication products developed with the support of internal Comms unit included a project folder, flyer, target setting communique, pull up banner, a trial set of 200 bags and printing of Land Use Planning Unit posters & flyers during the Agriculture 2011 Show and other events. A designated webpage for the project is set up within the website www.wwfpacific.org.fj whereby field blogs and recent updates with information relating to the project are available for viewing.

7. Memorandum of Agreement with NTF/Protected Areas Committee (PAC). A 2-year agreement has been signed with National Trust for Fiji as PAC secretariat tasked to conduct the Geographical Information Systems (GIS) profiling work for this project.

8. Memorandum of Understanding between WWF and Fiji National University- Dean of College of Engineering, Science and technology was signed on Friday, the 19th of August at 2:30pm. Under terms of the MoU for the duration of this 2-year project, FNU will assist WWF with the provision of environmental science graduate/ student researchers, technical staff and laboratory facility for work on related freshwater biodiversity fauna of the Ba and Labasa river system linked to catchment biophysical surveys conducted by Land Use Planning Unit. WWF on the other hand will support field costs for the FNU freshwater-focus research associates and provide opportunities in capacity building with its led-mangrove surveys and other linked activities to the vulnerability assessment process at targeted sites.

9. Consultation with AusAID review consultant. An interview with Mr Graham Sem (AusAID consultant) who is reviewing and tasked to profile its regional CC funded projects with the intent to add input to the design of its next PASAP funding phase under AusAID ICCAI Program.



10. AusAID project position Climate Change Policy Officer is stationed at the Department of Environment and providing support to the Climate Change desk officer which includes the finalisation of the Fiji Climate Change Policy document.

11. Training of Trainers in Vulnerability Assessment Process. This 4-day training workshop was held at Nailaga village (Ba) from August 23-26 bringing about 12 tikina reps mainly youth, from Macuata to join the Ba group of 33 identified women, youth and elders. The training program was built on experiences of the target setting process workshop refining the context of the climate change basic science plus setting of small islands' information session. A designed program to frame the vulnerability assessment process addressing district and provincial level with aspects of biodiversity conservation, land use pattern and freshwater resource management whilst understanding local adaptive capacity to cope with climate variability/vulnerability and disaster risk reduction. A joint session of NDMO and Pacific Integrated Disaster Risk Reduction (PCIDRR) involved the trainees to consider disaster risk elements at the training site with a basic introduction to disaster risk planning at the village/district level. A training report is being drafted with a group of 45 tikina-level members from Ba and Macuata hooked up during the week. Next steps and follow up actions for the trained tikina group involve plans to participate in community-capacity building field activities linked to land care, river care and mangroves, aspects of building resilience in Ba and Macuata provincial regions.

12. Mangroves surveys derive mainly the records of mangrove locations, species zonation, mangrove condition & ID pressures on the mangrove ecosystem with soil samples in each distinct mangrove zone collected for analysis at Koronivia Research Station. A field team of FNU students+graduates joined the community mangroves monitor trained group from 1-17 September to field check patterns of mangrove zones in the Ba delta. The team walked [23.06sq.km](#) of mangrove area with transects from land to seaward margin, at least 43.6% of the entire delta. Mangrove surveys of Labasa delta and mangrove islands in Macuata region were conducted during 17-31 October.



A valuation of mangroves survey was designed and conducted at Labasa delta/Macuata mangrove community sites.
