



**Fiji Coral Reef Resilience Project**

**ANNEX 7: STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT PLAN**

**July 6, 2026**

**GCF Accredited Entity: WWF US**

**Lead Executing Entity: WWF Fiji**

## 1. Introduction

As climate-related threats to coastal communities in the small island nation of Fiji have increased and intensified in recent decades due to coastal erosion, coral bleaching, floods and sea-level rise, coral reef systems like Fiji's Great Sea Reef (GSR) are experiencing major degradation.<sup>1</sup> While stressors were primarily from locally-driven, land-based pollution, they have since expanded to include events directly linked to climate change including high intensity cyclones. The most severe coral bleaching event recorded in Fiji occurred during the 2000 La Niña, when sea surface temperatures remained above the summer maximum for five months, resulting in coral losses in the order of 40%–80% across Fiji.<sup>1</sup> There has not been any major events in the last two decades, though elevated temperatures in the summer months in 2022 and 2023, resulted in localized coral bleaching. Local scientists have argued that because the warmer summer months coincide with the annual cyclone season, this may play a role in reducing thermal stress<sup>1</sup>, making Fiji's coral reefs more resilient to bleaching.

The GSR is Fiji's richest marine ecosystem, critical to the economic, social and environmental prosperity of close to 40 percent of Fiji's population (approximately 360,000 people) who reside in the four provinces of Ba, Ra, Bua, and Macuata adjacent to the GSR, and depend directly on it for their food, livelihoods and cultural practice. The WWF GCF Coral Reef Resilience Project (CRRP) aims to provide support to ensure the continued productivity of the GSR and connected coastal ecosystems by reducing local threats to ensure these reefs continue to withstand anticipated ocean warming and acidification and continue to provide the necessary services communities depend on. This approach is underpinned by creating an evidence base to support the Government of Fiji in adopting an integrated approach to land-sea management in the face of climate change that expands on its existing management networks to incorporate ecosystem-based solutions to enhance community and ecosystem resilience and support climate adaptation.

The Project will be executed by one Executing Entity (EE), WWF-International, acting through its Pacific office. WWF-Fiji, a private independent organization under the international WWF Network and separate legal entity to WWF-US, will serve as the EE for the Project. WWF US serves as the accredited entity. The project will work closely with Fiji's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, as well as the ministries of iTaukei Affairs, Fisheries, Forestry, Finance and Local Government as partners. The overarching aim of the project is to ensure that by 2033 reefs and coastal ecosystems in Fiji's GSR are healthy and resilient to the changing climate, supporting regenerative business, food security and the building of livelihoods and community wealth. There are three components to the project that will contribute to this goal.

An overview of the design of the project's components, outcomes and outputs are provided below:

### **Component 1: EbA and living shoreline solutions to enhance community resilience and reduce threats to the GSR**

#### **Outcome 1: The resilience of reef-reliant communities in Fiji's GSR is enhanced through EbA and NbS solutions.**

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<sup>1</sup> Mangubhai, Sangeeta, Helen Sykes, Edward Lovell, Gilianne Brodie, Stacy Jupiter, Cherie Morris, Steven Lee, et al. "Fiji: Coastal and Marine Ecosystems." In *World Seas: An Environmental Evaluation*, 765–92. Elsevier, 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-08-100853-9.00044-0>.

*Output 1.1: Reef-reliant communities and provincial governments engaged in the implementation of EbA interventions.*

*Output 1.2: Living shorelines constructed and operational.*

*Output 1.3: Locally Led Adaptation initiatives are supported and implemented to enhance climate resilience of reef-reliant communities in the GSR.*

### **Component 2: Enabling a paradigm shift toward integrated R2R coastal ecosystem management in Fiji's GSR**

**Outcome 2. An enabling environment and R2R ecosystem planning frameworks are conducive to the effective management and implementation of EbA, NbS, and living shorelines interventions within the GSR.**

*Output 2.1. New management arrangements to reduce climate change vulnerability developed for the GSR.*

*Output 2.2: Evidence base to support the adoption of EbA and NbS interventions by the GoF.*

*Output 2.3: Updated procedures for implementing EbA and NBS in Fiji.*

### **Component 3: Strengthening access to finance for reef-positive enterprises**

**Outcome 3: Businesses that reduce threats to the GSR have improved access to commercial capital**

*Output 3.1: Business development support providers and relevant national and provincial institutions have enhanced capacity to support reef-positive businesses the GSR.*

*Output 3.2: Coordination between reef-positive enterprises, business development support providers, financial institutions and government is strengthened, improving enterprise visibility to capital providers.*

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) is integral to the successful and sustainable impact of the CRRP. This SEP is informed by stakeholder consultations undertaken across the four provinces of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua in August 2024, to identify key project stakeholders, their interests and concerns, their ongoing involvement in the project and the roles and responsibilities required for managing the implementation of this project.

## **2. Regulations and Requirements**

### **Government of Fiji Policies and Regulations**

State principles, structures and processes of government and the rights of citizens are enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji 2013.

The Republic of Fiji National Ocean Policy (2020-2030)<sup>2</sup> is aimed at supporting, synergizing, promoting and establishing “best practice standards for oceans management within the Fijian Government and for all relevant stakeholder groups including community groups, non-government organizations and the private sector.” The National Ocean Policy includes “Government and non-government stakeholder consultation, on application of ocean management tools” under Goal 2 geared towards sustainability to “protect, restore, and improve ocean ecosystems, and enhance climate resilience and biodiversity.” The National Ocean Policy Steering Committee also includes the implementing partner government ministries (iTaukei Affairs, Fisheries, Forestry, Finance and Local Government).

The Environment Management Act 2005 (EMA) outlines principles of sustainable use and development of natural resources, requiring recognition and regard for “the protection of human life and health” and “the relationship of iTaukei with their ancestral lands, waters, sites, sacred areas and other treasures” (Part 1, Section 3, 3a).<sup>3</sup> The EMA touches on stakeholder engagement in requirements for environmental impact assessments (EIAs), in which “If the EIA Administrator has reason to believe that there is a public concern relating to the development proposal, the EIA Administrator may require the approving authority authority to submit the EIA report for consideration to take into account the public concern” (Part 4 Section 27, 8). The EMA requires that “When the preparation of an EIA assessment is completed, a public hearing must be conducted by the proponent within the vicinity of the area of the proposed development” and that “Where the Government is the proponent, the ministry responsible for the development must establish a committee to be responsible for undertaking consultations with all interested parties” (Part 4, Section 34, 1-2).

The iTaukei Affairs Act 1944<sup>4</sup> and subsidiary legislations outline the structures and processes for engaging with Indigenous communities. The iTaukei Affairs (Provincial Councils) Regulations 1996 and iTaukei Affairs (Tikina and Village Councils) Regulations 1996 are the subsidiary legislations pertaining directly to stakeholder engagement, mandating the structure, roles and functions of Provincial, Village and Tikina (District) Councils in facilitating consultation and decision making in iTaukei communities, connecting them to government ministries and departments on matters of village development including natural resource management and conservation. Village Councils function to “develop and improve the economic base of iTaukei,” “improve and develop the health, housing and sanitation needs,” and “to formulate rules to ensure that respect and due regard is observed in the village, in matters affecting traditional authority, discipline and protocol” (iTaukei Affairs (Tikina and Village Councils) Regulations 1996, Part 2, Regulation 29).

In relation to gender equality, women’s and children’s rights in stakeholder engagement, Fiji ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women in 1995<sup>5</sup> which legally binds State Parties to fulfill, protect, and respect women’s rights. Also, the National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls (2023-2028)<sup>6</sup> prioritizes a prevention-first and survivor-centered

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<sup>2</sup> *Fiji Climate Change Portal (FCCP) and National Designated Authority (NDA) Portal*. Fiji Climate Change Portal (FCCP). (2020, August). <https://fijiclimatchangeportal.gov.fj/>

<sup>3</sup> ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT ACT 2005 - Laws of Fiji. (n.d.). <https://www.laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/2576#>

<sup>4</sup> ITAUKEI AFFAIRS ACT 1944 - Laws of Fiji. (n.d.). <https://laws.gov.fj/Acts/DisplayAct/3252#>

<sup>5</sup> *Pacific Government CEDAW Learning Exchange | Human Rights & Social Development*. (n.d.). <https://hrsd.spc.int/node/1013>

<sup>6</sup> Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, 2023, Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence against All Women and girls (VAWG) (2023 - 2028), Ministry of Women, Children and Poverty Alleviation, <https://sites.google.com/view/fijinap/home> accessed via <https://www.toksavepacificgender.net/research-paper/fiji-national-action-plan-to-prevent-violence-against-all-women-and-girls-vawg-2023-2028/>

approach, including a legal framework to protect against violence, resourced national Domestic Violence and Child Helplines, and the National Service Delivery Protocol for Responding to Cases of Gender-Based Violence, outlining referral mechanisms.

### **WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement**

The WWF GCF Agency requires all GCF projects comply with GCF and WWF standards on Stakeholder Engagement, specifically the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement<sup>7</sup> and the associated Procedures for Implementation of the Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.<sup>8</sup> Stakeholder engagement is an overarching term that encompasses a range of activities and interactions with stakeholders throughout the project cycle and is an essential aspect of good project management.

The WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement requires the Executing Entity to engage stakeholders throughout the life of the project; communicate significant changes to project stakeholders and consult on potential risks and impacts; establish a grievance redress mechanism and register and respond to grievances throughout project execution, and; disseminate information in a way that is relevant, transparent, objective, meaningful, easily accessible. The Standard on Stakeholder Engagement promotes an inclusive process to support the development of strong, constructive and responsive relationships that help to identify and manage risks, and which encourage positive outcomes for stakeholders and project activities.

### **Other**

Closely linked to its standards and procedures for implementation on stakeholder engagement, WWF's Standard on Indigenous Peoples<sup>9</sup> sets out requirements and procedures for interventions that may affect Indigenous Peoples, their lands, territories and resources in the areas where WWF works, including free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) as a right of Indigenous Peoples under the 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Other conservation and civil society groups have progressed FPIC in Fiji, including WCS, which has developed contextualized FPIC Processes (2019) for use in Melanesia, and Oxfam in the Pacific, having worked with the Bua Urban Youth Network to translate the Oxfam FPIC Manual into the iTaukei language.

## **3. Project Stakeholders**

Stakeholders are defined in the WWF Procedures for Implementation on Stakeholder Engagement<sup>10</sup> as “persons or groups who are directly or indirectly affected by a project, as well as those who may have an interest in a project and/or the ability to influence its outcomes, either positively or negatively.” In this respect, stakeholders include local affected communities and individuals, their formal and informal representatives, national and local government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organizations and special interest groups, the academic community, and businesses.

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<sup>7</sup> Standard on stakeholder engagement. (n.d.-b). <https://wwfgeftracks.com/sites/default/files/2019-02/Procedures for Implementation of Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> Procedures for implementation of standard on stakeholder ... (n.d.). <https://wwfgeftracks.com/sites/default/files/2019-02/Procedures for Implementation of Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> WWF Standard on Indigenous People's Consultation. (n.d.-c). [https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf\\_standard\\_on\\_indigenous\\_peoples\\_consultation\\_draft.pdf](https://wwfint.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/wwf_standard_on_indigenous_peoples_consultation_draft.pdf)

<sup>10</sup> Procedures for implementation of standard on stakeholder ... (n.d.). <https://wwfgeftracks.com/sites/default/files/2019-02/Procedures for Implementation of Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.pdf>

## **National Government Entities**

The Great Sea Reef (GSR) Management Unit, established under Output 2.1, the GSR MU Lead and Coordinator, will be embedded in the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC) to ensure close coordination with the NDA who will Chair the GSR MU's Advisory Board and to ensure alignment with existing policies and plans in Fiji. To execute the same Output and facilitate coordination and enhance the capacity of other agencies with ecosystem management responsibilities, the PMU will also embed coordinators within the Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways, Ministry of Forestry and Fisheries, Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the Ministry of Lands and Natural Resources, and the Commissioners Offices in the Western and Northern Divisions.

To facilitate coordination for the execution of Component 3 activities, a PMU coordinator will also be embedded within the Ministry of [Trade, Cooperatives, Small and Medium Enterprises](#). All PMU's members embedded within government agencies will be subject to a secondment agreement (cooperative agreement) between WWF-Fiji and the relevant government agency.

The ministries of iTaukei Affairs, Fisheries, Forestry, Finance, Education and Local Government will be implementing partners involved through their respective contributions to the National Ocean Policy Steering Committee (NOPSC), Marine Affairs Coordinating Committee (MACC), and the GSR Steering Committee. The GSR Steering Committee was established in 2017, the same year the CRRP design process was initiated. Meeting monthly, the GSR Steering Committee engages stakeholders from government agencies, private sector, civil society, and community representatives to implement a long-term sustainability strategy for Fiji. The Ministries of Rural and Maritime Development, Infrastructure and Agriculture have also been included in provincial consultations undertaken by the CRRP feasibility study team in February 2024.

## **Sub-national Government Administration**

Under the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944, engagement with iTaukei communities in provinces is conducted through the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the iTaukei Affairs Board and Provincial Councils. The iTaukei Affairs Board is a statutory body established under the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944 and includes conservation and climate change as one of its operational platforms in supporting the good governance and well-being of the iTaukei people. For CRRP, this will involve Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata, Provincial Councils and their respective *Roko Tuis* (heads of provincial councils), Provincial Administrators (PAs), Conservation (PCO) and Women's Interest Officers (WIO), Yaubula Committees and District Advisory Councillors (DACs). Municipal councils in urban areas across the four provinces were included in consultations as part of the CRRP feasibility studies in February 2024, and will continue to be involved as advised by the Ministry of Local Government. Provincial Councils oversee the decision-making structures in place with iTaukei community councils at village, district and provincial levels. Conservation Officers are situated in each Provincial Council. They are part of the national Conservation Unit established in 2012 as a resolution of the iTaukei Affairs Board, mandated under the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944 and the Environment Management Act 2005. The role of Provincial Conservation Officers is to support natural resource and environmental management in the respective provinces they are assigned to, feeding into provincial decision making structures and reporting to the National Environment Council through the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs as chair of the National Resource Owners Council. Divisional Women's Interest Officers support the engagement of women through village women's committees, through to districts and provincial decision making structures, linked to the Ministry for Women, Children and Social Protection. For the CRRP, Conservation and Women's Interest Officers will

play integral supporting roles in aligning with iTaukei decision-making structures and informing stakeholder engagement at village, district and provincial levels. District Advisory Councillors are representatives for Indo-Fijian communities, appointed by and reporting to the District Office. For the CRRP, the District Advisory Councillor networks across the Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata provinces will be key to engaging with Indo-Fijian communities as the second significant population grouping in Fiji, recognizing their distinct and unique experiences with accessing and using coastal and marine resources.

### **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities**

The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua provinces will comprise the main beneficiaries of this project, specifically the two main ethnic groups of Fiji - iTaukei (Indigenous) and Indo-Fijians who arrived in the 1870s as indentured laborers and later as merchants under the British colonial administration. The Green Climate Fund's Indigenous Peoples Policy<sup>11</sup> affirms that its requirements apply to "indigenous people and local communities," regardless of which terminology is used to describe distinct social and cultural groups that: (1) self-identify as members of a distinct grouping recognized by others; (2) share a collective attachment to geographically distinct habitats, ancestral territories; (3) hold customary cultural, social, economic and political systems distinct from the mainstream; and (4) a distinct language or dialect. In Fiji's context, given that iTaukei make up the majority of the population followed by Indo-Fijians, the IPLC term will be used to denote iTaukei as Indigenous Peoples and Indo-Fijians as Local Communities. The project will work with women and men in all their diversity, living in targeted coastal areas whose food and nutritional security, livelihoods and cultural practices are impacted by the health and productivity of the GSR. In these four provinces, target communities include but are not limited to those residing in the districts of: Dreketi, Mali, Nadogo and Sasa in Macuata; Bua, Lekutu and Vuya in Bua; Naroko, Navolau and Rakiraki in Ra; and Nadi, Nailaga, Naloto and Vuda in Ba. These communities will be part of multi-stakeholder engagements to inform policy planning and ecosystem management in the GSR, contributing to the design, placement and maintenance of ecosystem-based interventions, and involved in technical assistance to support partnerships between financial institutions and businesses for sustainable enterprises.

### **NGOs**

As long standing international conservation non-government organizations (NGOs) in Fiji, WWF Pacific, WCS and CI have organized themselves across Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata provinces. WWF Pacific, with its extensive experience in supporting climate change adaptation efforts has worked in the GSR for over 20 years, particularly in Macuata and Ba. WCS and CI have both extended working histories in Ra Province, and WCS has invested heavily in Bua Province. WWF Pacific will liaise and coordinate with WCS and CI at every opportunity to ensure points of alignment, collaboration and leveraging opportunities, and building on existing conservation efforts and partnerships with IPLCs.

NGOs working in community conservation and natural resource management in the four provinces include the Adventist Development Relief Agency Fiji (ADRA Fiji), Live and Learn Fiji, Rise Beyond the Reef, Habitat for Humanity, Vinaka Fiji, the Mamanuca Environment Society, Dialogue Fiji, Community Centered Conservation Fiji (C3 Fiji), NatureFiji-Mareqeti Viti, the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA Network), cChange, and the Women in Fisheries Network-Fiji (WiFN-Fiji).

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<sup>11</sup> Green Climate Fund. (n.d.). *Indigenous peoples policy - Green Climate Fund*. Green Climate Fund. <https://www.greenclimate.fund/sites/default/files/document/ip-policy.pdf>

Wider civil society presence in the targeted provinces is coordinated by the Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS) as Fiji's umbrella body for NGOs. Through its District Council of Social Services (DCOSS) Coordination and Support network, FCOSS has a nationwide presence through its district-level coordinators whose relationships with communities and mandated roles in national disaster response mechanisms make them a key counterpart in stakeholder engagement. The Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM), Fiji Women's Crisis Center (FWCC), and House of Colours have a presence in the four provinces, supporting advocacy, training and service provision in human rights for women and LGBTQI+ communities. FWRM and FWCC are members of Fiji's NGO Coalition on Human Rights (NGOCHR), which has a rotating secretariat and comprises NGOs active in community development in the provinces of focus. The FCOSS DCOSS network and NGOCHR will be key counterparts in ensuring full, inclusive community and stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the project.

### **Multilaterals**

The World Bank, Asian Development Bank (ADB), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and UN Women are implementing complementary initiatives in the provinces that comprise the GSR. FAO in particular is undertaking a GCF proposal in collaboration with the Ministry of Forestry in the same four provinces with complementary indicators and focus areas (e.g. forest protection, forest restoration).

### **Community Based Organizations (cooperatives, etc.)**

Community based organizations with links to the four provinces and involved in conservation matters include the Bua Urban Youth Network and the Soqosoqovakamarama. The Bua Urban Youth Network is a network of young people residing in urban centers who are from or have connections to the province and are concerned about developments like bauxite mining and its adverse effects on their communities. The network is affiliated with the Provincial Youth Council which falls under the National Youth Council. The Soqososo Vakamarama iTaukei (SSVM) is Fiji's largest and oldest Indigenous women's organization, founded as a non-political, non-sectarian organization in 1924 to empower and promote women's interests in the development of their villages and rural communities. As organizations which have representation in national and provincial councils and committees, the National Youth Council, SSVM and Bua Urban Youth Network will be key partners in ensuring inclusion of women and youth in CRRP interventions.

### **Private Sector**

Private sector organizations present in the project area include Essence of Fiji, BioEnergy Insight Pacific, Cacao Fiji, the Barefoot Collection, the Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited (FHCL), FDB, Provincial Holding Companies, the Labasa Cane Producers Association, the Tabla Rice Cooperative, the Ratu Jo Nacola Trust Agroforestry Farms, Okra Cooperative, Nasolo Sololevu Kava, Tavua Florist Bloom, CI Community Nurseries, the Lautoka Fishers Cooperative, the Macuata Oyster Hatchery, the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF), Matanataki, the Fijian Holdings Unit Trust, and the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF). Fiji Pine Limited and the Fiji Cane Growers Association are also prominent in the area, and participated in CRRP consultations as part of project feasibility studies in February 2024. With tourism operators mentioned amongst stakeholders in August 2024 consultations, engaging provincial tourism associations wherever they exist will also be prioritized.

The mentioned organizations play important roles in enabling livelihoods amongst IPLCs in the four provinces, ranging from tourism to collective interests and cooperatives. The private sector is also a key stakeholder in the National Ocean Policy (2020-2030)<sup>12</sup> under Goal 3 on increasing national maritime domain awareness among national agencies (Strategy 3.1). With the CRRP Component 3 focused on market based solutions, the majority of the aforementioned private sector organizations have been engaged in the project's scoping and all will be essential partners in informing the design and implementation of the grant facility (in partnership with FDB) and technical support for businesses and banks for sustainable enterprises.

#### 4. Summary of any previous stakeholder engagement activities

The project is built on the foundational work of Fiji's GSR Steering Committee, established in 2017 to engage government agencies, the private sector, civil society and community representatives to implement a long-term sustainability strategy for Fiji. The GSR Steering Committee's vision, objectives, and outputs were informed by consultations, workshops and bilateral meetings in Fiji with the NDA (then the Climate Change Unit), the ministries of Environment and Climate Change, Finance, Fisheries, and Local Government, the FDB, and local communities in project intervention areas in the Ba, Ra, Bua and Macuata provinces to align with national and sub-national priorities.

##### National Consultations

Two national-level consultation processes have informed the project design, and over a dozen bilateral meetings. In 2017 an initial scoping assessment was conducted, including bilateral meetings with 45 stakeholders from 29 organizations and a consultative workshop attended by 29 stakeholders from 17 organizations. In 2019 additional consultative workshops and meetings in Fiji took place, specifically focused on developing the project's GCF Concept Note, attended by 50 participants from government, civil society, local communities, businesses, academia and NGOs. The CRRP will further empower these agencies and other non-government partners by committing to execute components under the project in partnership with local agencies. The national-level consultations helped set out and clarify the scope of the project in the four provinces, and to better understand the presence and interests of various organizations present in those provinces. Informing the Concept Note, these combined consultations also formed the basis for the project's commitment to engage with local agencies to carry out its three components.

##### Provincial Consultations

In February 2024 **provincial consultations** took place across Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua, facilitated by WWF Pacific and WWF US, along with representatives of the University of Queensland (UQ) as part of a feasibility study to identify priority communities, and refine CRRP interventions. A total of 159 representatives from the ministries of Rural and Maritime Development, iTaukei Affairs, Forestry, Infrastructure, Agriculture as well as municipal and Provincial Councils were consulted, along with counterparts from other community based and conservation organizations including CI, FLMMA and

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<sup>12</sup> *Fiji Climate Change Portal (FCCP) and National Designated Authority (NDA) Portal*. Fiji Climate Change Portal (FCCP). (2020, August). <https://fijiclimatchangeportal.gov.fj/>

WiFN-Fiji, village leadership including women's groups, and private sector organizations like Fiji Pine Limited and the Fiji Cane Growers Association. These provincial consultations combined the contributions of local communities and government officials to describe climate impacts and non-climate stressors pressuring the GSR and the communities relying on it. Their knowledge of historic, existing or planned conservation projects related to the GSR, also informed community-level consultations later in the year to enable better collaboration.

In August 2024 provincial consultations were held in the four provinces as part of stakeholder engagement consultations to inform the SEP, GAP and ESMF facilitated by a stakeholder engagement team with guidance from WWF Pacific and WWF US. A total of 25 (21 men, 4 women, 23 iTaukei, 2 Indo-Fijian) provincial representatives participated, in roles and organizations including Provincial Administrator, Senior Assistant Roko Tui, Provincial Conservation Officer, District Office, SSVM, Provincial Youth Council, ministries of Youth and Sports, Rural and Maritime Development, Women, Children and Social Protection, and Forestry. Participants highlighted the changing weather patterns and seasonal variations affecting their traditional crop cultivation schedules and fishing practices. They highlighted how fishing is a significant source of income and food for the communities they serve. Other forms of income include farming (sugar cane, vegetables, livestock and poultry), selling mats, employment in nearby government offices and leases for pine, sugar cane and gravel extraction. Women glean and fish closer to the shore for crabs, prawns and seaweed, while men fish further out at sea. Climate-related changes pose significant socio-economic implications, particularly for women, as weather fluctuations affect family incomes, placing pressures on women as primary caregivers and providers. They attributed soil erosion, waterway and ocean pollution, eutrophication and siltation to logging and deforestation, chemicals used in the sugar cane and logging industries, and gravel extraction. Participants shared increased vulnerability to cyclones, storm surges, coastal inundation and flooding. Their feedback informed the diversity of conservation stakeholders present in the provinces, clarified existing decision making structures and highlighted learnings from previous, existing and planned livelihood projects. This has indicated that the CRRP will benefit from broadening its coordination and learning from conservation projects undertaken in the project areas, taking a multi-pronged approach to engaging women and youth consistently throughout the project lifecycle, and learning from existing livelihood projects in line with communities' desire to reduce their reliance on fishing.

### Community Consultations

In August 2024, as part of stakeholder engagement consultations in the four targeted provinces, **focus groups** and **interviews** were undertaken at community and village levels to inform the SEP, GAP and ESMF. Overall, 344 people were consulted in 19 focus group discussions (including women-only groups) and 47 key informant interviews (including Indo-Fijian informants), engaging representatives of local conservation non-profit Community Centred Conservation Fiji (C3 Fiji), fishers, community members, and villagers in 16 iTaukei villages. Focus group discussions involved site visits to four villages per province as selected by WWF Pacific, highlighting a range of geographical features within areas identified for CRRP interventions. Key informant interviews with Indo-Fijian fishers and community members across all four provinces were conducted with the support of social networks of fishers and farmers, as well as the District Advisory Councillor (DAC) network in each province, coordinated by

respective District Offices (DO). District Advisory Councillors, or DACs as they are known, are representatives of communities and settlements that fall outside the scope of registered iTaukei villages. They are selected via a DO invitation to apply, undergo orientation training, and submit monthly reports outlining community developments and their mandated activities, including facilitating community requests for matters utilities and municipal services where relevant. DACs remain in communication with one another and with DO officials via group mobile telecommunication platforms.

People consulted highlighted the importance of understanding the context of communities when suggesting livelihood projects, pointing to examples of unsuccessful initiatives such as a beekeeping project which was hindered by windy weather conditions and sugar cane harvesting fires. While government mandated structures for iTaukei decision-making in villages include women and youth committees, women were doubtful about the long term impact of their contributions, feeling they had to struggle to be heard and were excluded from the distribution of revenue from village projects. Indo-Fijian fishers discussed how differences in land tenure affected their access to fishing licenses, involving significant financial costs and precarity in maintaining security of annual approval from iTaukei fishing ground owners. In the absence of government-mandated structures governing iTaukei communities, Indo-Fijian participants highlighted their focus on nuclear families, coming together for religious ceremonies or through informal networks, with community development facilitated by DAC networks reporting to the District Officer (DO). Vulnerability to coastal inundation endangering farming productivity, as well as increased frequency and severity of flooding was raised by community members, who linked this to infrequent river dredging, mangrove destruction and large construction developments. Improper waste disposal was also put forward as a community challenge, contributing to environmental degradation and pollution of waterways and coastal areas while also posing health risks. The consultations informed project safeguards and screening, as well as gender-informed intervention planning by clarifying community dynamics, exploring the differences in iTaukei and Indo-Fijian lived experiences regarding access to coastal areas and fishing grounds, as well as entry points for engagement in project decision-making. Community members advised that water pollution cannot be addressed without alleviating improper waste disposal, existing structures must be engaged with an intentional focus on engaging with marginalized groups, mindful of vulnerabilities in decision making channels, and that iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities would need to be engaged in distinct ways given their distinct life experiences, tenureship arrangements, and propensities for collective decision-making.

## 5. Stakeholder Engagement Plan

The purpose of this SEP is to ensure appropriate and consistent involvement of project stakeholders in every stage of the CRRP implementation, supporting effective communication and working relationships. The Project Management Unit (PMU) will ensure that the views and inputs of stakeholders are taken into consideration throughout project implementation.

Informed by guidance and advice from consultations and review of existing legislation, the SEP will: (1) align with existing convening mechanisms, particularly those mandated by national laws like the 1942 iTaukei Affairs Act, and the 2005 Environment Management Act; (2) build and reinforce existing CRRP management mechanisms, for example ensuring members of the GSR Steering Committee remain included in stakeholder engagement; (3) minimize stakeholder fatigue while offering value through the

sharing of information and seeking feedback; (4) prioritize two-way engagement at all opportunities, sharing CRRP updates and developments while seeking feedback and suggestions.

| Stakeholder Type                              | Name                                                                   | Frequency of Engagement/ Project Years                                            | Engagement During Project Implementation                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>National Government Entities</b>           | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change                             | Annually, Y1-Y7 (GSR Annual Planning Workshops)                                   | The Fiji Government, led by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and implementing ministries, has spearheaded the conceptualization and design of the CRRP, which is built on the formative work of the GSR Steering Committee.                                                                                                                                                     |
|                                               | Ministry of iTaukei Affairs                                            |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Ministry of Fisheries                                                  |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Ministry of Forestry                                                   | Quarterly, Y1-Y7 (GSR Update and Feedback Sessions)                               | The CRRP will convene and train government stakeholders (including GSR Steering Committee members), as part of developing a common understanding for better integration of climate change and coral reefs in national and sub-national policies and plans.                                                                                                                                    |
|                                               | Ministry of Finance                                                    |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Ministry of Education                                                  |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Ministry of Local Government                                           |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development                             |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection                      |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Ministry of Tourism and Civil Aviation                                 |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways                                  |                                                                                   | Building on previous consultative workshops, focus groups, and interviews, the project will continue to engage with GSR Steering Committee members, ministries, and multilateral agencies through a combined annual coordination workshop to decide on modes and frequency of coordination, discuss CRRP milestones, and gather ongoing feedback.                                             |
|                                               |                                                                        |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Sub-National Government Administration</b> | Provincial Councils of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua                         | Annually, Y1-Y3, Y5-Y6 (Provincial Council Roundtables)                           | The project will hold annual provincial council roundtables engaging in Indigenous Peoples' (iTaukei) nationally mandated decision making structures, including Roko Tuis, CEOs of municipal councils, PAs, PCOs, WIOs, and district yaubula committee representatives to share project milestone updates, seek feedback on interventions, and gather advice about conservation priorities.   |
|                                               | Municipal councils of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua                          |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | <i>Roko Tuis</i> of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua Provincial Councils        |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Provincial Administrators (PAs) of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua             | Annually, Y1-Y3, Y5-Y6 (District Advisory Councillor Roundtables)                 | A separate annual provincial roundtable will be held with DACs to discuss the aforementioned points, and to seek feedback for Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) faith-based and interest based groups and organizations to include, engaging them progressively with each roundtable. In the fourth year of the project, a combined provincial roundtable will be held with IPLCs collectively. |
|                                               | Provincial Conservation Officers (PCOs) of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua     |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | Women's Interest Officers (WIOs) of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua            | Triennially/Biennially, Y4, Y7 (Combined Provincial Council and District Advisory | While every opportunity should be pursued to engage both ethnic groups collectively, it                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|                                               | Yaubula Committees of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua                          |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|                                               | District Advisory Councillor (DAC) networks in Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua |                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                         | Councillor Roundtables)                                                    | remains vital to engage with them separately to enable in-depth discussions of their distinct perspectives and experiences.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) in Dreketi, Mali, Nadogo, Wailevu, Labasa, Namuka, Dogotuki, Udu, Seaqaqa, Macuata and Sasa districts in Macuata Province                                  | Annually, Y1-Y7 (Project Affected Community Surveys - Focus Groups)        | IPLCs in the provinces of Ba, Ra, Macuata, and Bua are the key project beneficiaries. These communities will participate in structured face to face surveys (in focus groups as much as possible) and consultations (in vernacular languages whenever possible), to co-identify challenges, co-design solutions (including for public awareness campaigns), and monitor the implementation of CRRP interventions. They will also receive training and development support to help align coral reef-related policies, laws, and regulations under component one of the project and to fulfill their roles in monitoring and managing coastal and marine resources under component two.<br><br>IPLCs will also receive training in more sustainable and climate resilient agriculture and forestry practices, as well as capacity building, training, and development of alternative livelihood opportunities for coastal communities, including agro-forestry, sustainable aquaculture, eco-tourism, blue carbon projects in mangrove areas, and community waste management. In surveys and consultations, every opportunity will be taken to include representatives of community based organizations.<br><br>Engagement will follow a gender-sensitive approach, guided by the Gender Action Plan (GAP), and adhering to WWF’s Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) standards, alongside the Fiji Government’s FPIC protocols through the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs. |
|                                          | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) in Bua, Lekutu, Navakasiga, Dama, Nasarowaqa, Kubulau, Wainunu, Solevu, Nadi and Vuya districts in Bua Province                                            | 6-Monthly, Y1-Y7 (Project Affected Community Update and Feedback Sessions) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) in Naroko, Navolau, Raviravi, Nakorotubu, Bureiwai, Kavula, Nakuilava, Navitilevu, Mataso and Rakiraki districts in Ra Province                            | Monthly, Y1-Y7 (CRRP PMU Updates to Project Affected Communities )         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) in Nadi, Nailaga, Naloto, Bulu, Nacula, Yasawa, Vitogo, Tavua, Naviti, Waya, Viwa, Qaliyalatina, Savatu, Magodro, Sabeto and Vuda districts in Ba Province |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) in Dreketi, Mali, Nadogo and Sasa districts in Macuata Province                                                                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) in Bua, Lekutu and Vuya districts in Bua Province                                                                                                       |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) in Naroko, Navolau and Rakiraki districts in Ra                                                                                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) in Nadi, Nailaga, Naloto and Vuda districts in Ba Province                                                                                              |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          |                                                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| NGOs                                     | World Conservation Society (WCS)                                                                                                                                                        | Annually, Y1-Y7 (Civil Society Roundtables)                                | Building on the formative work of the NGOs in the GSR Steering Committee, the CRRP PMU’s stakeholder liaison team will interview and consult quarterly with NGOs that have a presence in the CRRP project area. Supplementing these engagements, the CRRP PMU will engage in monthly updates with                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|                                          | Conservation International (CI)                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | ADRA Fiji                                                                                                                                                                               | 6-Monthly, Y1-Y7 (Civil                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | Live and Learn Fiji                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                                          | Rise Beyond the Reef                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                 | Habitat for Humanity<br>Vinaka Fiji<br>Mamanuca Environment Society<br>Dialogue Fiji<br>Community Centered Conservation Fiji (C3 Fiji)<br>NatureFiji-Mareqeti Viti<br>Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) Network<br>cChange<br>Women in Fisheries Network Fiji (WiFN-Fiji)<br>Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)<br>Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM)<br>Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC)<br>NGO Coalition on Human Rights (NGOCHR)<br>World Bank<br>Asian Development Bank (ADB) | Society Update and Feedback Sessions)<br><br>Monthly, Y1-Y7 (CRRP PMU Updates to Sub-Contractors/Implementing Partners)            | NGOs that the project has implementation partnerships with. The face to face interviews and consultations will convey updates relating to the CRRP, welcoming NGO insights and feedback to report back to the PMU. In line with the meeting schedule of the Annual Planning Workshops, civil society committee representatives will meet with each NGO at least annually.                                                                                                      |
| <b>Multilaterals and Regional Organizations</b> | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)<br>Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)<br>UN Women<br>Pacific Community (SPC)<br>University of the South Pacific (USP)<br>Center for Integrated Development Pacific (CIDC)<br>National Youth Council<br>Bua Urban Youth Network                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Annually, Y1-Y7 (GSR Annual Planning Workshops)<br><br>Quarterly, Y1-Y7 (CRRP Update and Feedback Sessions)                        | With respect to previous consultations and the formative work of the GSR Steering Committee since 2017, multilateral agencies will be included in the GSR Annual Planning Workshops with GSR Steering Committee members (e.g. the IDC, formerly the Pacific Islands Development Forum) and implementing ministries to decide on modes and frequency of coordination, discuss CRRP milestones, and gather ongoing feedback.                                                     |
| <b>Community Based Organizations</b>            | Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei (SSVM)<br>ANZ Bank<br>Fiji Development Bank (FDB)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Annually, Y1-Y7 (Project Affected Community Surveys - Focus Groups)<br><br>6-Monthly, Y1-Y7 (Project Affected Community Update and | Community based organizations will be engaged at every opportunity at provincial level through IPLC surveys and consultations. They will be included wherever possible in the structured face to face surveys (in focus groups as much as possible) and consultations (in vernacular languages whenever possible) with IPLCs, to co-identify challenges, co-design solutions (including for public awareness campaigns), and monitor the implementation of CRRP interventions. |

|                              |                                                      |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                              |                                                      | Feedback Sessions)<br><br>Monthly, Y1-Y7 (CRRP PMU Updates to Project Affected Communities ) |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Private Sector               | BioEnergy Insight Pacific                            | Annually, Y1-Y7 (Private Sector Roundtables)                                                 | Private sector organizations have been engaged in the project’s early consultations and scoping exercises, particularly more recently to inform component three, focusing on market-based interventions. They will contribute to designing and implementing technical support for businesses and banks promoting sustainable enterprises, as well as managing a grant facility in partnership with the FDB.<br><br>Building on the formative involvement and private sectors members of the GSR Steering Committee, the CRRP PMU’s stakeholder liaison team will interview and consult with private sector organizations with a presence in the CRRP project area. These face to face interviews and consultations will convey project updates relating to the CRRP, welcoming private sector insights and feedback to report back to the PMU, particularly relating to component three. |
|                              | Cacao Fiji                                           |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Barefoot Collection                                  |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited (FHCL)             |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Fiji Pine Limited                                    |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Fiji Crop and Livestock Council (FCLC)               |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Essence of Fiji                                      |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Ra, Ba, Macuata and Bua Provincial Holding Companies |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Ra, Ba, Macuata and Bua tourism associations         |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Fiji Cane Growers Association                        |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Tabla Rice Cooperative                               |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Jo Nacola Trust Agroforestry and Reforestation       |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Okra Cooperative                                     |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Nasolo Sololevu Kava                                 |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Tavua Florist Bloom                                  |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | CI Community Nurseries                               |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Lautoka Fishers Cooperative                          |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Macuata Oyster Hatchery                              |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Matanataki                                           |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|                              | Fijian Holdings Limited                              |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Fiji National Provident Fund |                                                      |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
| Unit Trust Fiji              |                                                      |                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

\*In addition to the above, all stakeholders will receive regular project updates via newsletter and other communication products supported by the CRRP.

## 6. Resources and Responsibilities

With the WWF US GCF Accredited Entity responsible for oversight, WWF Pacific as the lead Executing Entity is responsible for executing the Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP) and overall compliance with the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement.

A Project Manager will be recruited to the Project Management Unit (PMU), hosted by the Ministry of Finance. The Project Manager will oversee implementation of the SEP across the project. Within the PMU, there will be a Lead Safeguards Specialist and a Lead Gender Specialist who will ensure compliance with the SEP and stakeholder engagement requirements, supported by four Provincial Stakeholder Engagement Leads- one each for Ba, Bua, Ra and Macuata.

## 7. Grievances Mechanism

The project will have a direct and tangible effect on local communities and individuals residing within or in the vicinity of project sites. There is thus a need for an efficient and effective Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM) that collects and responds to stakeholders' inquiries, suggestions, concerns, and complaints. Importantly, the GRM is designed to ensure the rights of women and men equally, as well as vulnerable or marginalized groups, including youth and people with disabilities, and therefore will ensure that during the stakeholder engagement processes at the community level, women and marginalized groups will be made aware of, and encouraged to utilize the GRM, as relevant. This section will describe the details of the GRM, including details on the process to submit a grievance, how long the PMU will have to respond, and who on the PMU will be responsible for its implementation and reporting. Further consultations will be conducted in the first six months of Project start to ensure that reporting options align with the needs and desires of all stakeholders, and the GRM will be updated accordingly.

The purpose of the GRM is to:

1. Ensure that Stakeholders have a formal process to resolve Grievances related to WWF's Environmental and Social Safeguards Framework (ESSF).
2. Ensure that the PMU staff, partners, and donors understand the procedures involved in implementing the GRM.
3. Minimize and manage risks and ensure that the resolution of a Grievance is based on dialogue, cooperation, respect, and mutual agreement.
4. Support Grievance handling processes and enhance transparency and accountability throughout the PMU.

The GRM will operate based on the following principles:

1. **Fairness:** Grievances are assessed impartially and handled transparently.
2. **Objectiveness and independence:** The GRM operates independently of all interested parties in order to guarantee fair, objective, and impartial treatment to each case.
3. **Simplicity and accessibility:** Procedures to file grievances and seek action are simple enough that project beneficiaries can easily understand them and in a language that is accessible to everyone within a given community, especially those who are most vulnerable.
4. **Responsiveness and efficiency:** The GRM is designed to be responsive to the needs of all complainants. Accordingly, officials handling grievances must be trained to take effective action upon, and respond quickly to, grievances and suggestions.

5. **Speed and proportionality:** All grievances, simple or complex, are addressed and resolved as quickly as possible. The action taken on the grievance or suggestion is swift, decisive, and constructive.
6. **Participation and inclusiveness:** A wide range of affected people—communities and vulnerable groups—are encouraged to bring grievances and comments to the attention of the project implementers. Special attention is given to ensuring that poor people and marginalized groups, including those with special needs, are able to access the GRM.
7. **Accountability and closing the feedback loop:** All grievances are recorded and monitored, and no grievance remains unresolved. Complainants are always notified and get explanations regarding the results of their complaint. An appeal option shall always be available.

## 1. Eligibility

Any person or group of persons who believe they are adversely affected, including PMU staff and the PMU's contracted partners, or are at risk of adverse impacts, may file a Grievance. To be eligible for the GRM, the Grievance must:

1. Relate to the GCF GSR project.
2. Explain how the Complainant, defined as the person or people impacted, have been experiencing or may experience adverse environmental or social impacts as a result of the project or programme.
3. Indicate what steps have already been taken to try to resolve the Grievance, such as use of government support, alternative grievance or mediation mechanisms, the implementing partner's grievance mechanism, communication with the project manager, WWF's Ombudsperson Office, or the community's local grievance resolution practice.
4. Outside organizations may assist the Complainant to file a Grievance, but must provide documented evidence that the Complainant has agreed to engage them to assist in this way

Complaints may include, but not be limited to, the following issues:

- a) Allegations of fraud, malpractices or corruption by staff or other stakeholders as part of any project or activity financed or implemented by the project, including allegations of gender-based violence or sexual exploitation, abuse, or harassment;
- b) Environmental and/or social damages/harms caused by projects financed or implemented (including those in progress) by the project;
- c) Complaints and grievances by permanent or temporary workers engaged in project activities.

Complaints could relate to pollution prevention and resource efficiency; negative impacts on public health, environment or culture; destruction of natural habitats; disproportionate impact on marginalized and vulnerable groups; discrimination or physical or sexual harassment; violation of applicable laws and regulations; destruction of physical and cultural heritage; or any other issues which adversely impact communities or individuals in project areas. The grievance redress mechanism will be implemented in a SEAH-responsive and culturally sensitive manner and facilitate access to vulnerable populations. Special training will be provided to the ESS Specialist within the first 6 months of project implementation, or before the GRM is finalized, whichever is sooner. This will help to ensure they have the capacity to address SEAH-related grievances in a culturally sensitive and victim-centered way.

Per the WWF-Pacific Complaints Resolution Process: "WWF-Pacific is committed to ensuring that our working relationship with our communities is one built on trust and mutual respect. We are committed

to a Speak Up culture in alignment with WWF Networks Core Standard Speak Up. Therefore, the way we operate and the way we behave with our communities is very important to this relationship. We also recognize the challenges of our communities especially women, children and people with disabilities and the greater need for us to reach out in order to do what we can to help you.”

## 2. Local Grievance Practices

1. If the community has a local Grievance resolution practice, the Complainant may utilize the local practices and the PMU will support these practices.
  - a. Note that any grievances submitted via a local practice must still be recorded as per standard project practice, followed through to the conclusion by a PMU member, and reported to the WWF US GCF AE Safeguards Lead.
2. If local Grievance resolution practices are used, a member of the Project or Programme team will monitor the process to ensure that it is in line with the principles of the GRM as outlined in this ESMF, WWF’s Environmental and Social Safeguard Framework, and WWF’s Core Standards. This will ensure that, in particular, women and marginalized groups are included in the process.
3. If at any point PMU determines that the local Grievance resolution practices are not compliant with the project’s GRM and GCF requirements, the local Grievance practices will be terminated and the project-level GRM will be triggered.
4. If local Grievance resolution practices are used, these should be carried out in their entirety prior to the project-level GRM finding the Grievance to be admissible; however, the Complainant may decide at any time to end the local Grievance resolution practice and trigger the project-level GRM.
5. If the local Grievance resolution practices resolves the Grievance to the satisfaction of the Complainant, then the Grievance will be considered closed.

## 3. Exclusions

The following Grievances are excluded from the GRM:

1. Any Grievance that is found by the PMU to have been filed fraudulently or maliciously.
2. Grievances that relate to WWF or PMU procurement, fraud, employment, workplace harassment, or other wrongdoing within WWF **that does not affect** the Stakeholders (generally, these requests should be referred to WhistleB).
3. Projects or programme where the PMU is one of several partners and is not responsible for the specific issues raised. In this case the GRM should state in its response what entity or organization is likely responsible for the Grievance.
4. Projects or programme where the PMU’s role has ended and the PMU has no feasible pathway to address the Complainant’s concerns.
5. Grievances from Complainants who have already raised the issue and received a GRM response, unless significant new information is available or there has been a significant change in the circumstances.
6. Anonymous requests (note: confidentiality will be maintained upon request)

## 4. Structure of the GRM

The GRM will be implemented by the Lead Safeguard Specialist in the PMU, who will have ultimate responsibility for ensuring its implementation and being the point person for responding to grievances. In the event the grievance requires additional support to respond to, the following people may be called upon to assist:

1. The PMU National Project Director
2. The ESS and Gender Officer
3. Relevant technical staff within the PMU
4. The Fiji Country Manager
5. Expert mediator or conflict resolution consultant, as needed.
6. All members of the GHT must disclose any conflicts of interest and may be removed from the GHT at the discretion of the PPO Regional Director.

## **5. Confidentiality and Anonymity**

The PMU's Lead Safeguards Specialist or any other PMU staff who receives a Grievance will ensure that the information is treated with sensitivity and confidentiality. Information and details about the Grievance, at the discretion of the Complainant, will not be shared with anyone who is not part of the response team, including other community members, friends, family members, or media of any kind, unless required by law or the terms of the donor agreement. Although the project is required to share the details about the Grievance with the WWF US AE and the GCF Secretariat, names will not be included and all personal identifiable information will be withheld to maintain the confidentiality of the Grievance.

The disclosure of the identity of a Complainant to parties involved in the process might be necessary to implement the Grievance resolution process. In this case, the Complainant shall be consulted about the necessary steps and consent must be obtained before this will be implemented. The Complainant has the right to withdraw the Grievance at any step of the process.

The PMU will reserve its right to initiate disciplinary action in cases of misconduct related to the principle of confidentiality.

## **6. Steps for Filing a Grievance**

Note: Complaints can be submitted in English, iTaukei, Hindi or Rotuman.

1. A Grievance may be submitted by anyone, including partner organizations, Indigenous Peoples, tribal peoples, local communities and their representatives, or any other party who may be adversely impacted by the project activities or is representing someone who may be adversely impacted.
2. Community representatives or members of the community are encouraged to submit a Grievance as soon as they become aware of the issue. There is, however, no time limit or statute of limitations for raising a Grievance, unless the project or programme has ended and there is no feasible way to address the Grievance.
3. A Grievance can be raised in several ways. Most common methods include using the community Grievance box in local communities, speaking directly to Project staff when they visit the field, phone: +679 331-5533 or through email: [projectcomplaint@wwfpacific.org](mailto:projectcomplaint@wwfpacific.org).
4. All PMU staff and employees and project or programme implementing partner staff are obliged to submit any Grievance received to the Lead Safeguards Specialist.
  - a. Grievances received through the Grievance box must be given to the Lead Safeguards Specialist, and must not be opened.
  - b. WWF or PMU staff who are not involved in resolving grievances and receive a Grievance via phone or in person should immediately report the Grievance to a member of the complaints resolution team, usually the Lead Safeguards Specialist.
  - c. Grievances received online using [www.wwfpacific.org](http://www.wwfpacific.org) will be automatically forwarded to the Lead Safeguards Specialist.

- d. If a grievance is received via WWF International's "WhistleB," it will be directly reported to the Fiji Country Director.
5. The project team must check the Grievance box during community visits. The project team may also rely on Community Engagement Officers to ensure that Grievances submitted via the Grievance box are collected regularly.
6. The Complainant has the right to withdraw a Grievance; however, the Lead Safeguards Specialist will seek to identify the underlying reason for the initial action and document the process up to the point of withdrawal, including why the Grievance was withdrawn.
7. Grievances may be submitted by an authorized representative on behalf of a person or community. Persons or organizations acting as representatives must include documentation that the Complainant has requested representation. While working with authorized representatives in its response to Grievances, the complaints response team retains the option to communicate directly with the Complainant.

## **7. Steps for Handling a Grievance**

The Lead Safeguards Specialist has the responsibility for the full functionality of the project-level GRM, which will operate within the wider WWF-Pacific GRM. This includes: receiving Grievances, evaluating and investigating Grievances, implementing resolution measures, and closing Grievances. Assistance in this process can be requested when necessary for a fair and effective resolution.

Receiving and Acknowledging a Grievance:

1. Grievances received must be immediately documented in the Grievances register that is maintained by the Lead Safeguards Specialist as a secured folder.
2. The Lead Safeguards Specialist will be the main focal point for Grievance redress unless the complaint is about them, in which case the National Project Director will manage the grievance.
3. The Lead Safeguards Specialist will contact the Complainant within one week of receiving a Grievance acknowledging that the Grievance has been received.
4. The acknowledgement letter, e-mail or hard copy, as most appropriate, will specify:
  - a. The name and contact details of the Lead Safeguards Specialist;
  - b. A description of the next steps, including a timeline.
  - c. An explanation that the Grievance will be addressed by the GHT, in collaboration with a mediation or conflict resolution expert, if necessary.
  - d. The Complainant will be asked to remain available for further dialogue or questions and their contact information will be confirmed.

## **8. Evaluating and Investigating a Grievance**

1. Within 10 working days of receiving a Grievance the Lead Safeguards Specialist will meet to discuss the merits of the Grievance as per the admissibility requirements.
2. At the discretion of the Lead Safeguards Specialist, this process can be expedited if it is determined that the Complainant or other relevant Stakeholder are in danger of immediate harm.
  - a. In the case of an expedited Grievance the Lead Safeguards Specialist will respond to the Complainant within 3 working days.
3. The Lead Safeguards Specialist will work with employees based at local offices and partners, as needed, to understand the information necessary to assess the Grievance. The Lead Safeguards Specialist may also contact the Complainant should they require more information.
4. Within 28 working days of receiving a Grievance the Lead Safeguards Specialist will communicate its admissibility decision.

5. If the Grievance is determined to be inadmissible the Grievance will be closed; however, a Complainant may resubmit a Grievance as outlined in this GRM.
6. If the Grievance is determined to be admissible the Lead Safeguards Specialist will develop a Grievance Resolution Plan
7. The Complainant shall be informed regarding the progress of the process and has the right to add more information or ask questions. Communications from the Lead Safeguards Specialist must be in written form and in a language the Complainant understands. If necessary, the communication may be via phone, but the content of the discussion memorialized and added to the Case File. For open Grievances the Lead Safeguards Specialist must update the Complainant about the progress of the Grievance on a monthly basis, at a minimum.

## **9. Grievance Resolution Plan**

The Lead Safeguards Specialist will determine whether the grievance can be addressed directly through relatively simple actions agreed with the Complainant, or whether the Grievance is complex enough that it requires additional assessment and engagement with the Complainant and other Stakeholders to determine how best to respond. In some cases, a fact-finding mission may be required to gather more information about the Grievance in order to propose a resolution. The details of what should be included in the Grievance Resolution Plan are outlined in Annex 3 of this ESMF.

## **10. Implementing a Resolution**

The Lead Safeguards Specialist will consult and develop an agreement upon the “actions taken” in the Grievance Resolution Plan with the Complainant. This process may take a number of iterations during which different Stakeholders, including an expert mediator or conflict resolution expert, may be required.

The PMU will implement the resolution either directly, through the partner organization, or through a third party, as appropriate and with the consent of the Complainant.

The Lead Safeguards Specialist will document details of the Grievance handling process and the implementation of the resolution as outlined in the Grievance Resolution Plan contained in Annex 2. Lead Safeguards Specialist is responsible for ensuring that all documentation is complete and is kept confidential and accessible only to the authorized persons as per the approval of the National Project Director.

## **11. Monitoring and Closure**

After a resolution plan has been agreed upon to the satisfaction of the Complainant, the implementation of the Grievance Resolution Plan will be monitored. Monitoring will be the responsibility of the Lead Safeguards Specialist in conjunction with the project team in the field. For proper handling of the monitoring of the Grievance Resolution Plan, the PMU’s employees and Implementing Partner staff are required to ensure effective communication with the Complainant and proper implementation of the Grievance Resolution Plan.

To close a Grievance, a final communication will be made with the Complainant using a Grievance Closure Form (see Annex 3 of this ESMF). The Grievance Closure Form must be signed by both the PPO Regional Director and the Complainant. The Lead Safeguards Specialist will then file the Grievance Closure Form in the GRM shared drive folder.

## **12. Reopening a Case**

1. The Complainant's signed statement does not preclude the Complainant from raising the issue again or seeking other avenues for resolution if the proposed resolution does not result in conclusively addressing the issue(s) raised in the Grievance or the issue(s) recur.
2. The PMU may reopen the Grievance if the Complainant or a third party provides new information that the Lead Safeguards Specialist determines warrants reopening the Grievance.
3. If a case is reopened, the PMU may consider including a mediator or conflict resolution expert (if they were not already involved) for support in the process of developing and implementing a satisfactory Grievance Resolution Plan.

### **13. Retaliation**

The PMU will not tolerate any kind of retaliation against people or communities that submit Grievances. Retaliation is defined as: any threat or actual harmful conduct undertaken in order to prevent or discourage a person or community from, or punish a person or community for, accessing the GRM. Any PMU employee or contractor who engages in retaliation will be subject to appropriate discipline. The PMU will take all possible actions to protect Complainants against retaliation. Anyone who has filed a Grievance and believes they have been subjected to retaliation of any kind should immediately report it to WhistleB or PMU senior management.

### **14. Operationalization of the Grievance Redress Mechanism**

The PMU will ensure that the GRM is translated into local languages, including Fijian. The PMU will also publish simple illustrations (information education communication materials) that will help inform the Stakeholder communities about how they can submit a Grievance. This will be done within the first six months of project implementation.

Disseminating information about the GRM:

1. Information about the GRM must reach all relevant communities and stakeholders. Therefore, the GRM will be advertised in all community and key stakeholder consultations taking place from the establishment of the PMU and set up of the GRM. Furthermore, the GRM will be advertised at all project sites and during training and capacity building activities of the Project.
2. As appropriate, the PMU may also wish to run radio ads or targeted advertisement on social media platforms used by the local population.
3. Finally, word of mouth is an important awareness raising tool for GRMs. The PMU will make an effort to communicate the GRM to all relevant community leaders and encourage them to share information about the GRM with their community members.

### **15. Awareness and Understanding Among Employees and Partners**

1. An introduction to the GRM will be part of any preparatory training to service providers, staff induction training, and cooperation agreements in order to ensure employees and partners are familiar with the GRM.
2. The PMU's Lead Safeguard Specialist will be responsible for ensuring that the GRM is deployed and is functioning effectively, and that communities are informed about their right to use it. The GRM will be included in the Monitoring, Evaluation, and Learning framework for each project or programme to measure its effectiveness.
3. The PMU will review this GRM on an annual basis and update it as per lessons learned from its implementation.

4. The GRM will also incorporate the most recent WWF Network Standards related to Grievance redress, as relevant.
5. The Lead Safeguard Specialist and ESS and Gender Officer will be responsible for training the PMU staff about the GRM and ensuring that Stakeholder communities are aware of how to file a complaint. This will be done as part of the project or program's Stakeholder Engagement process.

## **16. Additional Recourses:**

The GRM seeks complement, rather than substitute, the judicial system and other dispute resolution mechanisms. All complainants may therefore file their grievance in local courts or approach mediators or arbitrators, in accordance with the legislation of Fiji.

In addition to the project-specific GRM, a complainant can submit a grievance to the WWF US Project Complaints Officer (PCO), a WWF staff member fully independent from the Project Team and the WWF US GCF AE, who is responsible for the WWF Accountability and Grievance Mechanism and who can be reached at:

Email: [SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org](mailto:SafeguardsComplaint@wwfus.org)

Mailing address:

Project Complaints Officer  
Safeguards Complaints,  
World Wildlife Fund  
1250 24th Street NW  
Washington, DC 20037

Additionally, WWF's Ombudsperson Office offers an independent channel for communities to raise Grievances independently from the WWF executive or the PMU. This is in line with [WWF's Speak Up! Standard](#), which outlines WWF International's responsibility with respect to Grievance redress and as well the [proposed framework for the Obudsperson's Office](#)

Stakeholder may also submit a complaint online through an independent third-party platform at <https://report.whistleb.com/en/wwf>. Note: This is the only means for submitting a completely anonymous complaint

Grievances may also be submitted directly to the GCF Independent Redress Mechanism, which is independent of the GCF Secretariat and reports directly to the Board, via their website:

<https://irm.greenclimate.fund/case-register/file-complaint>

Information on all of the options available to stakeholders must be included in all communications about the project's GRM, including those options that are external to the Project.

Should the complainant wish to move through the entire complaints resolution process in place by WWF Pacific, the following steps will be taken until a resolution satisfactory to all parties is found.

1. Second round of review by the Inquiry Team,
2. Mediation led by a mediator accepted by both parties,
3. Escalation of the complaint to WWF's International Safeguards Helpdesk.

## **17. Monitoring and Evaluation:**

Quarterly internal reports on grievances and feedback received will be collated by the Lead Safeguards Specialist within the PMU. These must be submitted to the Safeguards Lead at the WWF US GCF AE.

These report will include information on:

- Numbers of grievances/feedback received
- Compliance with the response time requirements
- Overview of the issues raised in grievances/feedback
- Trends in grievances/feedback over time (in terms of number of complaints, topics, community of origin, etc.)
- Whether remedial action was warranted
- Which type of resolution was provided
- Strategies and recommendations to prevent reoccurrences
- Matters that were referred to other mechanisms or taken to court

A high-level overview of this information should also be included in the bi-annual monitoring reports. All information must be anonymized, and only overall trends and recommendations should be mentioned in project reporting.

## 8. Monitoring and Reporting

Progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan will be monitored and reported on throughout implementation.

The following comprises the monitoring and reporting activities to be undertaken with respect to stakeholder engagement **by the PMU**:

- The SEP will be periodically reviewed and updated as necessary at the annual Reflection Workshop. The review will ensure that the list of project stakeholders and methods of engagement remain appropriate.
- Activities related to stakeholder engagement will be documented and reported by the PMU as part of its project progress reporting processes. The project Results Framework and Annual Work Plan and Budget will track beneficiaries of the project and activities related to the Stakeholder Engagement Plan.
- Stakeholder Engagement activities and progress will be monitored through the following indicators:
  - Indicator SEP 1: Number of direct beneficiaries disaggregated by age, gender, ability, ethnicity, and province as co-benefit of GCF investment
  - Indicator SEP 2: Number of government agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities, and other stakeholder groups that have been involved in the project implementation phase on an annual basis
  - Indicator SEP 3: Number persons (age, gender, ability, ethnicity, and province disaggregated) that have been involved in project implementation phase (on an annual basis)
  - Indicator SEP 4: Number of engagements (e.g. meeting, workshops, consultations) with stakeholders during the project implementation phase (on an annual basis), disaggregated by stakeholder type, age, gender, ability, ethnicity, and province

- Indicator SEP 5: Number of satisfactory to positive sentiments in annual community surveys and focus groups relating to CRRP progress, disaggregated by age, gender, ability, ethnicity, and province
- Indicator SEP 6: Number of times grievance mechanism has been utilized to completion, disaggregated by age, gender, ability, ethnicity, and province
- Indicator SEP 7: Number of satisfactory to grievance mechanism users who conveyed satisfactory to positive sentiments after utilizing the mechanism, disaggregated by age, gender, ability, ethnicity, and province
- Indicator SEP 8: Number of trainings and capacity building activities completed, disaggregated by stakeholder type, age, gender, ability, ethnicity, and province, and whether the activity was user-requested
- Indicator SEP 9: Number of training and capacity building recipients who report improved skill and capability levels post-activity, disaggregated by stakeholder type, age, gender, ability, ethnicity, province, and whether the activity was user-requested

Stakeholder Engagement will be evaluated by **independent consultants** recruited for the project midterm and terminal evaluation.

The **WWF GCF Agency** will undertake annual supervision missions to ensure compliance, and report on progress against the Stakeholder Engagement Plan annually to the GCF through Project Implementation Reports.

## Appendix 1: Stakeholder Analysis

| Stakeholder Type                    | Stakeholder Name                           | Interest/Involvement in the Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Project Effect on Stakeholder / Stakeholder Influence on the Project                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>National Government Entities</b> | Ministry of Environment and Climate Change | Fiji Government lead on the project and a member of the GSR Steering Committee. As the Fiji Government ministry that endorses the final proposal submission to the GCF, it will be involved with the setup of the Project Management Unit (PMU), supporting Project implementation in areas mandated by the Environment Management Act 2005, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, and the formal reporting processes related to GCF funding. Their interest would be to oversee the Project successfully as part of growing Fiji's overall access and implementation to climate finance. | The Project affects the Ministry as the Fiji Government's lead ministry on its GCF submission process. The Ministry's influence on the Project is existential, as it plays a deciding role in GCF process as main representative of the Fiji Government. There is likely to be support for the Project's success as part of the Ministry's interest in demonstrating its ability to coordinate and deliver climate funding for Fiji's communities. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated.                                                                           |
|                                     | Ministry of iTaukei Affairs                | Member of the GSR Committee. Lead ministry for implementing the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944, mandating decision making structures on natural resource management and village development in Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) communities, including in the provinces where the CRRP will work. As governed by the iTaukei Affairs Act, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing advice and clearances for engaging with communities through Provincial Councils, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR                                                                                                    | The Project requires engagement with iTaukei communities and will therefore affect the Ministry in its implementing of the iTaukei Affairs Act. The Ministry's influence on the Project is significant as its involvement is legally mandated in order to enable the Project's engagement with iTaukei communities. There is likely to be support for the Project's success as part of demonstrating their ability to deliver services and support livelihoods and development opportunities for Fiji's iTaukei communities. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated. |

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|  |                       | Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to iTaukei culture and heritage. Their interest would be to facilitate the deliver of services and support to enable iTaukei communities to thrive.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | Ministry of Fisheries | Member of the GSR Steering Committee. Lead ministry for implementing the Fiji Fisheries Act 1941, and coordinating Fiji's national fishing and aquaculture programs to ensure food security and help grow the economy. As governed by the Fisheries Act, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing advice and clearances for engaging with fishers, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to fishing regulations and engagement with fishers. Their interest would be to see the successful management of fisheries regulations and sustainable management of fisheries for economic growth. | The Project requires the engagement of the Ministry in addressing fisheries and fishing license issues and for policy harmonization to take place successfully. The Ministry's legally mandated possession of data and records on fishers and fisheries information will be vital for informing Project activities and ensuring their impact. There is likely to be support for the Project's success as part of the Ministry's interest in demonstrating its ability to deliver support for Fiji's fishing communities - from individual fishers to fishing businesses. Often facing the brunt of frustrations from fishers, the Ministry works at the nexus of tensions related to supporting the sustainability of fish stocks alongside the viability of the fishing industry. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated. |
|  | Ministry of Forestry  | Member of the GSR Steering Committee (was then the Department of Forestry). Lead ministry for monitoring, surveilling, evaluating and controlling forest operations in compliance with the Fiji Forest Act 1992 and the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice 2013, including a role in managing mangrove systems. As governed by the Fiji Fisheries Act, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing advice and clearances for                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The Project requires the engagement of the Ministry in implementing legislation mandating forestry and part of mangrove management. The Ministry's involvement is key for ensuring that land-based activities like logging, which have an impact on reef health, can be addressed through the Project's activities. The Ministry is likely to overlap with the Project on matters relating to riverside, waterway, and mangrove health linked to reef conservation. There is also a separate GCF proposal process underway with the Ministry, which the Fiji Government is undertaking with the FAO. Hence, the Ministry is likely to have an interest in maintaining coordination connections with the Project to                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

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|  |                       | any Project activities related to forestry, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to forestry regulations insofar as they infringe on reef health. Their interest would be to see the successful management of forestry regulations and sustainable management of forests and timber for economic growth.                                                                           | collaborate and/or avoid overlaps in implementation. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | Ministry of Finance   | Member of the GSR Steering Committee and Lead ministry for Fiji's fiscal and financial policy implementation, the custodian of public funds. As governed by the Fiji Financial Management Act 2004, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing advice, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to financial allocations under the Project.                             | For the GCF funds, the Ministry of Finance will function as a supervisory entity for all funds being directed to line ministries, who will be implementing specific project components. The Ministry will be interested in seeing the Project implemented in line with procurement guidelines, achieving value for money, and demonstrating the Fiji Government's ability to manage global climate funding.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|  | Ministry of Education | Member of the GSR Steering Committee, lead ministry for service delivery through Fiji's education system under the Fiji Education Act 1966, participant in CRRP consultations and key dissemination partner of public and community awareness relating to climate change, coral reefs and conservation. As governed by the Fiji Education Act, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing advice and clearances for any activities that engage with communities through | The Project has an indirect impact on the Ministry, as it relates to potential training, capacity building or advocacy. The Ministry's involvement would be key in some ways, for example, with most schools serving as disaster evacuation centers, this may impact the Project's activities in environmental interventions. The Ministry is not likely to have much of an interest in the Project directly but will be part of policy harmonization and disaster response activities due to the prominence of schools in Fiji communities as convening points of collaboration and resource mobilization. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will |

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|  |                                            | schools or advocacy programs, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to education, schools and advocacy. Their interest would be to ensure the delivery of education services, improvement of infrastructure and learning outcomes for Fiji students.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|  | Ministry of Local Government               | Member of GSR Steering Committee, oversees 13 municipal councils, overseeing two key departments - local government, and town and country planning, playing a vital role in all components of the CRRP, particularly informing ecosystem-based interventions in project areas. As governed by the Fiji Local Government Act 1972, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing advice and clearances for engaging with communities through municipal councils, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to local government and municipal institutions. Their interest would be to oversee the successful management of local government, including rate collection and service provision. | The Project has a direct implication on the Ministry, as nationally mandated coordinator of municipal services (e.g. waste management) to the country's towns, cities, and localities. The Ministry's involvement is key for ensuring that the needs and priorities related to municipal services are incorporated by the Project. The Ministry is likely to be interested in ensuring that any municipal service and infrastructure-related activities take their advice/inputs into account, and would welcome support for their service delivery, utility and infrastructure needs. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated. |
|  | Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development | Lead government ministry in convening government agencies and partners together to serve the marginalized amongst Fiji's rural and maritime communities, including those in CRRP project areas. As guided by the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | The Project has a direct implication on the Ministry, as part of its delivering support for marginalized communities in Fiji's rural and maritime areas, as well as its mandated coordination role in national disaster management. The Ministry's involvement is key for ensuring that the needs and priorities of rural and maritime project-affected                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|  |                                                   | Integrated Rural Development Framework (IRDF) and mandated under the Fiji Natural Disaster Management Act 1998, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing advice and clearances for aligning community engagement with the IRDF, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to rural development and disaster management. Their interest would be to implement the IRDF and coordinate national disaster management effectively and efficiently to minimize loss of life or infrastructure.                                                                                                                                                                                           | communities are incorporated where relevant by the Project. It would be interested in the Project as a pathway to bolster its value as a convener of government agencies and partners to serve marginalized rural and maritime communities, to effectively implement the IRDF and to strengthen national disaster management. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|  | Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection | Lead government ministry in ensuring the rights and interests of women, children and communities in need of social protection, including women, children, and marginalized communities in the CRRP project areas. Implementer of the Fiji National Action Plan for Preventing Violence Against All Women and Girls 2023-2028. As governed by its National Action Plan and other relevant legislations such as the Community Work Act 1994, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing advice and clearances for engaging with communities in a gender sensitive manner, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to GEDSI. Their interest is to implement their national action plan | The Project has an indirect but significant implication on the Ministry, as part of its delivering on Fiji's National Action Plan for Preventing Violence Against All Women and Girls 2023-2028. The Ministry's involvement is key as the lead government ministry for ensuring the rights and interests of women and children are represented in Project activities. The Ministry is likely to be interested in ensuring the full involvement and participation of women, children, and other vulnerable populations in Project activities and consultations, as well as to ensure that existing services, protocols, and frameworks are operationalized if the Project encounters relevant issues in its implementation. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated. |

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|  |                                       | effectively, delivering social services efficiently and with impact, and improving the empowerment and life outcomes of women.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|  | Ministry of Tourism                   | Member of GSR Steering Committee. As governed by the Tourism Fiji Act 2004, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing advice and clearances for stakeholder engagement activities relating to tourism, contributing to policy harmonization, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to tourism stakeholders and tourism associations. Their interest would be to maximize Fiji's brand and increase Fiji's earnings as an international tourism destination.                      | The Project has a direct implication on the Ministry, as many of the private sector interests in the GSR are linked to tourism, an industry that is prominent in Fiji's economy. The health of Fiji's reefs is a key drawing card for its global tourism markets. The Ministry's involvement is key as the lead government ministry for ensuring the concerns and interests of tourism operators (as well as employees) are represented in Project activities. The Ministry is likely to be interested in ensuring the full involvement and participation of tourism associations in Project activities and consultations, as well as to ensure that operators access relevant support from the Project's grant facility for the betterment of businesses, communities, and the environment through tourism. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated. |
|  | Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways | Member of GSR Steering Committee. As governed by its 5-Year Strategic Development Plan 2024-2028, linked to Fiji's 20-Year National Development Plan, the Ministry will be involved in the Project by providing inputs and advice on Project activities relating to agricultural practices that impact waterway and reef health in the project-affected areas. The Ministry would also participate in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to agriculture stakeholders and farming organizations. Their interest | The Project has a direct implication on the Ministry, as many of the land practices that impact the GSR are linked to agriculture. The health of Fiji's reefs is closely linked to agricultural practices, linked to chemical runoff into waterways, and other related impacts. The Ministry's involvement is key as the lead government ministry for ensuring the concerns and interests of farmers, farms and agricultural businesses are represented in Project activities. The Ministry is likely to be interested in ensuring that agricultural practices are supported to be sustainable, productive, delivering socioeconomic benefits to communities and the growing the economy. Getting by on annual budget allocations, the Ministry would also be motivated by the opportunity to secure funding support for their agricultural programs Like the Fisheries Ministry, the                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|                                               |                                                | would be to maximize the sustainability, value and productivity of Fiji's agriculture industry.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Ministry of Agriculture and Waterways will at times face the brunt of communities'/farmers' frustrations, yet it operates in the nexus between seeking a thriving agriculture industry while protecting the environment. As with all government ministries, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow, and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Sub-National Government Administration</b> | Provincial Councils of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua | Mandated to manage and facilitate the collective decision making and development of Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) with government ministries and stakeholders as mandated by the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944, including in the four provinces in which the CRRP will work. The Provincial Councils would be involved in the Project's stakeholder engagement by providing accompaniment where needed by <i>Roko Tuis</i> , Conservation Officers and Women's Interest Officers for example, as well as advice and support for iTaukei community engagement with the clearance of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs Permanent Secretary. | The Project will affect the Provincial Councils through its engagement with iTaukei communities, given the Councils' roles as coordinators and facilitators of provincial decision making on natural resource management and conservation matters. This includes convening Provincial Roundtables, and overseeing Provincial Conservation Officers and Women's Interest Officers, who will be key facilitators of iTaukei community engagement. The Provincial Council is likely to be interested in ensuring that the Project's engagement with iTaukei communities is conducted within their legally mandated channels, and would welcome resourcing support for their service delivery to iTaukei communities. While the Provincial Council would be invested in the Project's success, it may face constraints in responsiveness not necessarily from a lack of interest but more from a lack of resourcing and bandwidth. As with all government organizations, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow (in this case the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs), and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated. |
|                                               | Municipal councils of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua  | Legislated under the Local Government Act 1972, currently 2 city and 11 town councils providing overall policy direction and maintaining and improving the quality of services and facilities for ratepayers, including in urban areas in which the CRRP will                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Municipal councils will be involved in the Project's engagement with municipal services and urban planning e.g. waste management. As implementors of the Local Government Act 1972 mandating local government, and town and country planning, the Ministry will be key contributors to informing policy harmonization, and facilitating engagement with urban and peri-urban                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |

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|  |                                                                        | <p>work. As governed by the Fiji Local Government Act 1972, municipal councils in the Ra, Ba, Macuata, and Bua provinces will be involved in the Project by providing guidance and accompaniment for engaging with municipal service providers on matters such as waste management for instance, participating in the GSR Annual Planning Workshop, as well as providing advice and support related to municipal services for both Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) and Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) communities. Their interest would be to carry out their legislated mandate within their annually allocated budget, while attracting funding for additional upgrades and services.</p>                          | <p>communities in project-affected areas. Importantly, this includes informal settlements and Indo-Fijian communities - both of which fall out of Provincial Council oversight under the iTaukei Affairs Act). The involvement of the Ministry will influence how broadly the Project can engage with its project-affected stakeholders in communities. As with all government organizations, the Project's activities will move as fast as the approval processes and bureaucracies of the Fiji Government will allow (in this case the Ministry of Local Government), and the efficiencies of the Project in relation to timeliness will depend on how swiftly government processes can be navigated.</p>                                                   |
|  | <p><i>Roko Tuis</i> of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua Provincial Councils</p> | <p>Administrators of Provincial Councils in the provinces in which the CRRP works, convening provincial officials and stakeholders within Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) decision making structures as mandated by the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944. <i>Roko Tuis</i> will be involved in the Project through providing advice and direction for engagement with iTaukei communities, informing consultations and policy alignment through participating in Provincial Council Roundtables, and delegating appropriate Provincial Council personnel like Conservation Officers, Women's Interest Officers, and others to support iTaukei community engagement. Their interest would be to carry out their provincial</p> | <p><i>Roko Tuis</i> will provide the leadership support to the Project at provincial level as part of administering Provincial Council functions under the iTaukei affairs Act 1944 and other subsidiary legislations. Their level of involvement and support would impact the Project's ability to convene iTaukei community stakeholders for participation in Provincial Roundtables, and the ability of Conservation Officers and Women's Interest Officers to support community engagement at village and district level. Additionally, their insights could inform policy harmonization by pointing out the real-life implications of existing policy, and of dynamics within and between villages as customary rights holders over fishing grounds.</p> |

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|  |                                                                    | duties successfully while attracting funding to their councils, managing policy problems and community conflicts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|  | Provincial Administrators (PAs) of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua         | Administrators of government ministry and department services for provinces, ensuring that concerns and priorities are forwarded to the relevant government authorities. As mandated by the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944, Provincial Administrators will be involved in the Project through providing advice and direction for engagement with iTaukei communities, informing consultations and policy alignment through participating in Provincial Council Roundtables, and delegating appropriate support through District Offices to support Indo-Fijian community engagement through District Advisory Councillor networks. Their interest would be to carry out their provincial duties successfully while attracting funding to their councils, managing policy problems and community conflicts. | Provincial Administrators will provide leadership support to the Project at provincial level as part of their roles facilitating concerns and priorities between communities and relevant government authorities. Their insights and involvement would impact the Project's ability to understand the real-life implications of existing policy, the various government, non-government and international agencies involved, and of dynamics and development priorities within and between iTaukei communities.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|  | Provincial Conservation Officers (PCOs) of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua | Support conservation matters in the province, working closely with <i>yaubula</i> (natural resource management) committees at village, district and provincial levels. As directed by Roko Tuis, Provincial Conservation Officers would be involved with the Project through advice and accompaniment for iTaukei community engagement, as mandated by the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944. Provincial Conservation Officers will be involved in the Project through                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Provincial Conservation Officers would impact the Project through their understanding, relationships and ability make inroads at village, district and provincial levels on matters of conservation in iTaukei communities. This will largely be through Yaubula Committees as part of their role working closely with village, district and province structures to support natural resource management and conservation matters, liaising between communities and government, as well as external stakeholders. Their level of involvement would influence the Project's ability to understand and engage successfully through existing iTaukei community structures for conservation such as Yaubula Committees. |

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|  |                                                             | providing advice and direction for engagement with iTaukei communities, helping facilitate surveys and focus group discussions, and informing consultations and policy alignment through participating in Provincial Council Roundtables. Their interest would be to carry out their provincial duties successfully, supporting conservation activities in communities via the Yaubula Committees at village level, supporting the management of community queries and conflicts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | They would also provide insights to the Project on the various other development agencies', government and non-government organizations' involvement in conservation in the provinces.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|  | Women's Interest Officers (WIOs) of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua | Support women's interests in the provincial and divisional offices, supporting the implementation of the Fiji National Action Plan to Prevent Violence Against All Women and Girls (VAWG) (2023-2028). Provincial Women's Interest Officers will be involved in the Project through providing advice and direction for engagement with iTaukei women in communities, helping facilitate surveys and focus group discussions, and informing consultations and policy alignment through participating in Provincial Council Roundtables. Their interest would be to carry out their provincial duties successfully, supporting women's interests in communities via the Women's Committees at village level, supporting the implementation of women's activities. | Women's Interest Officers would impact the Project through their understanding, relationships and ability make inroads at village, district and provincial levels on matters of gender equality, women's empowerment and related issues in iTaukei communities. This will largely be through Women's Committees as part of their role working closely with village, district and province structures to support women's interests, liaising between women in communities and government, as well as external stakeholders on conservation and natural resource management. Their level of involvement would influence the Project's ability to understand and engage successfully through existing iTaukei community structures with women such as Women's Committees. They would also provide insights to the Project on the various other development agencies', government and non-government organizations' involvement in women's issues and gender equality in the provinces. |
|  | Yaubula Committees of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua               | Established under the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944, iTaukei Affairs (Provincial Councils) Regulations 1996 and iTaukei                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Yaubula Committees would impact Project activities in iTaukei communities at village, district and provincial levels. They are key convening bodies for facilitating                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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|  |                                                                        | <p>Affairs (Tikina and Village Councils) Regulations 1996 to support natural resource management and governance across their respective provinces. Liaising with the Provincial Conservation Officers, the Yaubula Committees will be involved in the Project by facilitating engagement relating to conservation within monthly village meetings, play a prominent role in coordination of implementation at village level, as well as participate in surveys and focus group discussions. Their interest would be to carry out their conservation duties at village level, supporting opportunities for sustainable development and livelihoods.</p>                                                                                     | <p>Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) decision making in matters of conservation and natural resource management. Their influence on the Project would include the ability to understand the priorities, dynamics, opportunities, and obstacles involved in managing natural resources in ways that support reef health, areas where policy harmonization is needed, and what skills, capabilities, incentives, and interventions may be needed to support iTaukei communities in achieving their aspirations related to the GSR.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|  | District Advisory Councillor (DAC) networks in Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua | <p>Managed by District Offices (DOs) and Provincial Councils, overseeing Local Communities (Indo-Fijians and others) who live in settlements and localities, liaising with district and provincial authorities to meet the water, electricity, roads and other development needs of their communities, including Indo-Fijian fishers in the provinces the CRRP will work in. District Advisory Councillors will be involved in the Project by facilitating engagement relating to Indo-Fijian communities, play a prominent role in coordination of implementation at community level, as well as informing consultations and policy alignment by participating in District Advisory Councillor Roundtables, and helping to facilitate</p> | <p>District Advisory Councillor networks would impact the Project's ability to incorporate insights and contributions to activities from Indo-Fijian and other local communities that fall outside of the iTaukei Affairs Act's purview. DAC networks, comprising representatives from local communities, facilitate decision making in matters of municipal services such as water, roads, waste management, and other development concerns. They would influence the Project through contributions of non-iTaukei communities to inform policy harmonization, understanding access to customary land and fishing grounds, and ability to convene communities for consultations who might otherwise be difficult to engage with due to the relative lack of structure that exists within iTaukei communities.</p> |

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|                                                 |                                                  | surveys and focus group discussions. Their interest would be to carry out their duties as District Advisory Councillors, submit reports regularly, maintain reputations as being able to facilitate municipal services to their constituents, and support management of community queries and conflicts.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities</b> | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) in Macuata Province | Indigenous (iTaukei) residents of districts in which proposed interventions are clustered for the CRRP, informed by feasibility studies in Macuata Province. They would be involved in the Project as iTaukei community stakeholders, participants in village, district and provincial meetings, Yaubula committee members, participants in trainings and capacity building, implementors of activities, and participants in surveys and focus group discussions. Their interests would be to protect their culture, ways of life, and natural environment, to benefit from their customary fishing ground ownership, to gain sustainable livelihoods, and develop their communities. | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) people in the Macuata Province's project-affected areas would have a tremendous impact on the Project, as residents and customary owners/users of land and fishing grounds. Particularly for those in project-affected areas, they would be vital participants in annual community surveys through focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and monthly PMU updates on activities and interventions underway. Their support, insights, and contributions by way of local knowledge and generational experience will be key to the Project's ability to ensure people's experiences inform policy harmonization, that ecosystem interventions are relevant and impactful, and that private sector support through the grant facility matches socioeconomic and sustainability needs. |
|                                                 | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) in Bua Province     | Indigenous (iTaukei) residents of districts in which proposed interventions are clustered for the CRRP, informed by feasibility studies in Bua Province. They would be involved in the Project as iTaukei community stakeholders, participants in village, district and provincial meetings, Yaubula committee members, participants in trainings and capacity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) people in the Bua Province's project-affected areas would have a tremendous impact on the Project, as residents and customary owners/users of land and fishing grounds. Particularly for those in project-affected areas, they would be vital participants in annual community surveys through focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and monthly PMU updates on activities and interventions underway. Their support, insights, and contributions by way of local knowledge and generational experience will be key to the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

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|  |                                             | building, implementors of activities, and participants in surveys and focus group discussions. Their interests would be to protect their culture, ways of life, and natural environment, to benefit from their customary fishing ground ownership, to gain sustainable livelihoods, and develop their communities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Project's ability to ensure people's experiences inform policy harmonization, that ecosystem interventions are relevant and impactful, and that private sector support through the grant facility matches socioeconomic and sustainability needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|  | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) in Ra Province | Indigenous (iTaukei) residents of districts in which proposed interventions are clustered for the CRRP, informed by feasibility studies in Ra Province. They would be involved in the Project as iTaukei community stakeholders, participants in village, district and provincial meetings, Yaubula committee members, participants in trainings and capacity building, implementors of activities, and participants in surveys and focus group discussions. Their interests would be to protect their culture, ways of life, and natural environment, to benefit from their customary fishing ground ownership, to gain sustainable livelihoods, and develop their communities. | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) people in the Ra Province's project-affected areas would have a tremendous impact on the Project, as residents and customary owners/users of land and fishing grounds. Particularly for those in project-affected areas, they would be vital participants in annual community surveys through focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and monthly PMU updates on activities and interventions underway. Their support, insights, and contributions by way of local knowledge and generational experience will be key to the Project's ability to ensure people's experiences inform policy harmonization, that ecosystem interventions are relevant and impactful, and that private sector support through the grant facility matches socioeconomic and sustainability needs. |
|  | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) in Ba Province | Indigenous (iTaukei) residents of districts in which proposed interventions are clustered for the CRRP, informed by feasibility studies in Ba Province. They would be involved in the Project as iTaukei community stakeholders, participants in village, district and provincial meetings, Yaubula committee members, participants in trainings and capacity                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) people in the Ba Province's project-affected areas would have a tremendous impact on the Project, as residents and customary owners/users of land and fishing grounds. Particularly for those in project-affected areas, they would be vital participants in annual community surveys through focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and monthly PMU updates on activities and interventions underway. Their support, insights, and contributions by way of local knowledge and generational experience will be key to the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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|  |                                                     | building, implementors of activities, and participants in surveys and focus group discussions. Their interests would be to protect their culture, ways of life, and natural environment, to benefit from their customary fishing ground ownership, to gain sustainable livelihoods, and develop their communities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Project's ability to ensure people's experiences inform policy harmonization, that ecosystem interventions are relevant and impactful, and that private sector support through the grant facility matches socioeconomic and sustainability needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  | Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) in Macuata Province | Local (Indo-Fijian) residents of districts in which proposed interventions are clustered for the CRRP, informed by feasibility studies in Macuata Province. They would be involved in the Project as Indo-Fijian community stakeholders, participants in community, settlement and locality meetings, as constituents of municipal councils and District Advisory Councillor networks, participants in trainings and capacity building, implementors of activities, and participants in surveys and focus group discussions. Their interests would be to gain sustainable livelihoods, and develop their communities. | Local (Indo-Fijian) Communities in the Macuata Province's project-affected areas would have a tremendous impact on the Project, as residents, lessees, licensees and users of customary land and fishing grounds. Particularly for those in project-affected areas, they would be vital participants in annual community surveys through focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and monthly PMU updates on activities and interventions underway. Their support, insights, and contributions by way of local knowledge and generational experience will be key to the Project's ability to ensure people's experiences inform policy harmonization, that ecosystem interventions are relevant and impactful, and that private sector support through the grant facility matches socioeconomic and sustainability needs. |
|  | Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) in Bua Province     | Local (Indo-Fijian) residents of districts in which proposed interventions are clustered for the CRRP, informed by feasibility studies in Bua Province. They would be involved in the Project as Indo-Fijian community stakeholders, participants in community, settlement and locality meetings, as constituents of municipal councils and District Advisory Councillor networks, participants in trainings and capacity building, implementors of activities,                                                                                                                                                       | Local (Indo-Fijian) Communities in the Bua Province's project-affected areas would have a tremendous impact on the Project, as residents, lessees, licensees and users of customary land and fishing grounds. Particularly for those in project-affected areas, they would be vital participants in annual community surveys through focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and monthly PMU updates on activities and interventions underway. Their support, insights, and contributions by way of local knowledge and generational experience will be key to the Project's ability to ensure people's experiences inform policy harmonization, that ecosystem interventions                                                                                                                                            |

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|  |                                                | and participants in surveys and focus group discussions. Their interests would be to gain sustainable livelihoods, and develop their communities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | are relevant and impactful, and that private sector support through the grant facility matches socioeconomic and sustainability needs.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|  | Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) in Ra Province | Local (Indo-Fijian) residents of districts in which proposed interventions are clustered for the CRRP, informed by feasibility studies in Rakiraki Province. They would be involved in the Project as Indo-Fijian community stakeholders, participants in community, settlement and locality meetings, as constituents of municipal councils and District Advisory Councillor networks, participants in trainings and capacity building, implementors of activities, and participants in surveys and focus group discussions. Their interests would be to gain sustainable livelihoods, and develop their communities. | Local (Indo-Fijian) Communities in the Ra Province's project-affected areas would have a tremendous impact on the Project, as residents, lessees, licensees and users of customary land and fishing grounds. Particularly for those in project-affected areas, they would be vital participants in annual community surveys through focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and monthly PMU updates on activities and interventions underway. Their support, insights, and contributions by way of local knowledge and generational experience will be key to the Project's ability to ensure people's experiences inform policy harmonization, that ecosystem interventions are relevant and impactful, and that private sector support through the grant facility matches socioeconomic and sustainability needs. |
|  | Local Communities (Indo-Fijian) in Ba Province | Local (Indo-Fijian) residents of districts in which proposed interventions are clustered for the CRRP, informed by feasibility studies in Ba Province. They would be involved in the Project as Indo-Fijian community stakeholders, participants in community, settlement and locality meetings, as constituents of municipal councils and District Advisory Councillor networks, participants in trainings and capacity building, implementors of activities, and participants in surveys and focus group discussions. Their interests would be to gain sustainable                                                   | Local (Indo-Fijian) Communities in the Ba Province's project-affected areas would have a tremendous impact on the Project, as residents, lessees, licensees and users of customary land and fishing grounds. Particularly for those in project-affected areas, they would be vital participants in annual community surveys through focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and monthly PMU updates on activities and interventions underway. Their support, insights, and contributions by way of local knowledge and generational experience will be key to the Project's ability to ensure people's experiences inform policy harmonization, that ecosystem interventions are relevant and impactful, and that private sector support through the grant facility matches socioeconomic and sustainability needs. |

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|             |                                  | livelihoods, and develop their communities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>NGOs</b> | World Conservation Society (WCS) | GSR Steering Committee member. Has an extended working history and invested heavily in conservation in Ra and Ba provinces where the CRRP will work. As a longtime conservation partner with WWF Pacific, WCS will be involved in the Project as a facilitator and sub-granted implementor of activities, and participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions, as well as PMU updates to implementing partners, due to its cultivated presence and relationships in the Ra and Bua provinces. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives. | WCS, a fellow conservation organization alongside WWF Pacific, with an extended working history, existing relationships and interests in Ba and Ra provinces, would have a significant impact on the Project's success. With WWF Pacific, WCS, and CI sharing a history of coordination in the Project's four provinces, maintaining open communication and a positive working relationship with WCS would have a positive influence on the Project by strengthening coordination, minimizing overlaps, sharing insights, and maximizing impact. Better coordination amongst conservation organizations and civil society is also a priority underscored by the Fiji Government. This applies in particular to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, which sees coordination as a vital component to the country's ability to maximize access and desired impacts for climate funding. Sharing information and learning can also benefit communities by assisting in streamlining Project community engagements to avoid stakeholder fatigue through repetitive consultations. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If WCS becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. |
|             | Conservation International (CI)  | GSR Steering Committee member. Has an extended working history predominantly in iTaukei communities, supporting conservation in Ra Province where the CRRP will work. As a longtime conservation partner with WWF Pacific, CI will be involved in the Project as a facilitator and sub-granted implementor of activities, and participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions, as well as PMU                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | CI, a fellow conservation organization alongside WWF Pacific, with an extended working history, existing relationships and interests in the Ra province, would have a significant impact on the Project's success. With WWF Pacific, WCS, and CI sharing a history of coordination in the Project's four provinces, maintaining open communication and a positive working relationship with WCS would have a positive influence on the Project by strengthening coordination, minimizing overlaps, sharing insights, and maximizing impact. Better coordination amongst conservation organizations and civil society is also a priority underscored by the Fiji Government. This applies in                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|  |                              | updates to implementing partners, due to its cultivated presence and relationships in the Ra and Bua provinces. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | particular to the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, which sees coordination as a vital component to the country's ability to maximize access and desired impacts for climate funding. Sharing information and learning can also benefit communities by assisting in streamlining Project community engagements to avoid stakeholder fatigue through repetitive consultations. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If CI becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | The Earth Care Agency (TECA) | GSR Steering Committee member. Community champion for regenerative agricultural practices with experience working with women growers. TECA will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions, as well as potentially PMU updates if it becomes an implementing partner. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives. | The Earth Care Agency, through its involvement as a GSR Steering Committee member, and a partner with government and communities in sustainable agriculture, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project ecosystem interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If TECA becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks. |
|  | ADRA Fiji                    | International relief agency with a history of livelihood and agriculture training predominantly in iTaukei communities in Macuata, Bua and Ba provinces where the CRRP will work. ADRA Fiji will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | ADRA Fiji, through its widespread presence in livelihood and agriculture projects in Macuata, Bua and Ba provinces, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project ecosystem interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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|  |                      | Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions, as well as potentially PMU updates if it becomes an implementing partner. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Update and Feedback Sessions. If ADRA Fiji becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | Live and Learn Fiji  | Local environmental NGO that has worked with iTaukei communities on carbon trading initiatives as well as raising awareness and implementing beekeeping projects in Ra Province. Live and Learn Fiji will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions, as well as potentially PMU updates if it becomes an implementing partner. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives. | Live and Learn Fiji, through its interest in continuation and development of carbon trading and livelihood initiatives in the Ra Province, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project ecosystem interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If Live and Learn Fiji becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks. |
|  | Rise Beyond the Reef | A Fiji-based non-profit connects remote communities, government and the private sector with a focus on women and children. Has worked in Ba on disaster risk reduction and community support programs, overlapping with CRRP interventions in climate vulnerability and livelihood diversification to relieve pressure on                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | Rise Beyond the Reef, through its extensive relationships with iTaukei women and villages in the Ba Province related to disaster risk reduction and community livelihoods, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project ecosystem interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If Rise Beyond the Reef becomes an                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|  |                      | the GSR. Rise Beyond the Reef will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions, as well as potentially PMU updates if it becomes an implementing partner. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|  | Habitat for Humanity | International affordable housing agency. Has worked in Ba on disaster risk reduction and community support programs, overlapping with CRRP interventions in climate vulnerability and livelihood diversification to relieve pressure on the GSR. Habitat for Humanity will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions, as well as potentially PMU updates if it becomes an implementing partner. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives. | Habitat for Humanity, through its interest in disaster risk reduction and community support programs, overlapping with CRRP interventions in climate vulnerability and livelihood diversification, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project ecosystem interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If Habitat for Humanity becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks. |
|  | Vinaka Fiji          | Local environmental organization. Initially launched projects in Naviti (Ba Province, where the CRRP will work) in education, sustainable communities and marine conservation before expanding to northern parts of the Yasawa Island Group. Vinaka Fiji will be involved in the Project as a participant                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Vinaka Fiji, through its works in education, sustainable communities and marine conservation in Ba Province, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project ecosystem interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If Habitat for Humanity becomes an                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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|  |                              | in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions, as well as potentially PMU updates if it becomes an implementing partner. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|  | Mamanuca Environment Society | Local environmental membership organization. Has undertaken mangrove planting in the Vuda district (Ba Province, where the CRRP will work) although many of the mangroves have since died. The Mamanuca Environment Society will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives. | Mamanuca Environment Society, through its mangrove planting initiatives in Ba Province, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project ecosystem interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If Mamanuca Environment Society becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks. |
|  | Dialogue Fiji                | National NGO focused on peacebuilding, promoting democratic principles, and dialogue about social, economic, and environmental issues. Has undertaken a consultation regarding climate change, advocating about addressing climate change in the Macuata Province, where the CRRP will work. Dialogue Fiji will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Dialogue Fiji, through its work in climate change adaptation and mitigation consultations in Macuata Province, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project ecosystem interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If Dialogue Fiji becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|  |                                                | Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | Community Centered Conservation Fiji (C3 Fiji) | Has undertaken work with communities in managing their marine and coastal resources, with projects on agriculture and livelihoods in the Bua Province, where CRRP will work. Dialogue Fiji will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives. | Community Centered Conservation Fiji (C3 Fiji), through its community relationships established from supporting community-led projects on marine and coastal management, agriculture and livelihoods in Macuata Province, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project capacity building and ecosystem interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If C3 Fiji becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks. |
|  | Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti                      | Fiji's only domestic NGO working in conservation and sustainable management of natural heritage. Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti, as Fiji's only domestic NGO working in conservation and sustainable management of natural heritage, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project policy harmonization, capacity building, ecosystem, and private sector interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|  |                                                  | implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|  | Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area (FLMMA) Network | A national network connecting over 400 communities, government, and academic institution, advancing locally led marine resource management. Held their Annual General Meeting in Bua Province, and has laid groundwork for governance and management plans that introduced conservation across all coastal districts, including the CRRP project areas. The FLMMA Network will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives. | The FLMMA Network, as a national network connecting over 400 communities, government, and academic institution, advancing locally led marine resource management, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into the feasibility of proposed Project policy harmonization relating to fisheries and marine resources, as well as capacity building, ecosystem, and private sector interventions. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If the FLMMA Network becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks. |
|  | cChange                                          | Australia and Fiji non-profit agency for strategic communication and behavior change. cChange will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | cChange, as an established Fiji non-profit agency for strategic communication and behavior change on conservation and climate change, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into advocacy needs relating to reef conservation and natural resource management. This                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|  |                                             | <p>becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | <p>underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If cChange becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|  | Women in Fisheries Network Fiji (WiFN-Fiji) | <p>Regional membership network of fishers, researchers, gender and development specialists and scientists. Has undertaken ridge-to-reef initiatives in Ra Province (Navolau district), including awareness and a nama (seaweed) project where the CRRP will work. WIFN-Fiji will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.</p> | <p>The Women in Fisheries Network Fiji (WiFN-Fiji), with its history of engagement, recognition and support for women fishers and those in fisheries roles, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into women and gender in fisheries. Their contributions could also influence the Project's stakeholder engagement and coordination on GEDSI by strengthening understanding of women's unique perspectives in fisheries, and prevent stakeholder fatigue by understanding what earlier interventions may have taken place. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If WIFN-Fiji becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.</p> |
|  | Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS)     | <p>Fiji's umbrella body for NGOs, has a nationwide presence through its district-level coordinators (DCOSS) who</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <p>The Fiji Council of Social Services (FCOSS), as the umbrella body for NGOs in Fiji and a nationally mandated role in disaster response, will have a positive impact on the</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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|  |                                     | <p>have relationships with communities and mandated roles in natural disaster response mechanisms in all provinces. They are key advisors for entry points for engagement with local communities (Indo-Fijians) in the CRRP projects areas. FCOSS will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.</p> | <p>Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into women and gender in fisheries. Their contributions could have a positive impact on the Project's stakeholder engagement and coordination due to their relationships at district level with both Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) and Local Communities (Indo-Fijians). Mandated by government as a primary NGO coordinator in disaster response, their influence could help prevent stakeholder fatigue by understanding what earlier interventions may have taken place in disaster response and risk reduction in communities, as well as priorities for ecosystem interventions and livelihoods support. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If FCOSS Fiji becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.</p> |
|  | Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM) | <p>Advocacy and policy organization for women's and girls rights, and a member of the NGO Coalition on Human Rights (NGOCHR), providing a vital insight into full, inclusive community and stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the CRRP. FWRM will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would</p>                                                                                                                             | <p>The Fiji Women's Rights Movement (FWRM), as the advocacy and policy organization for women's and girl's rights in Fiji, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into women and gender in project-affected communities. Their contributions could have a positive impact on the Project's stakeholder engagement and coordination due to their relationships at district level with women's networks in both Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) and Local Communities (Indo-Fijians). Their experience and insights could help prevent stakeholder fatigue by understanding what earlier gender and GEDSI policy interventions may have taken place in the country, as well as gender priorities for policy harmonization. This underscores the need for</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|  |                                   | be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If FWRM becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|  | Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC) | Prevention and response service organization for violence against women, and a member of the NGO Coalition on Human Rights (NGOCHR), providing a vital insight into full, inclusive community and stakeholder engagement throughout the life of the CRRP. FWCC will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives. | The Fiji Women's Crisis Center (FWCC), as the prevention and response service organization for violence against women in Fiji, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into GEDSI in project-affected communities. Their contributions could have a positive impact on the Project's stakeholder engagement and coordination due to their relationships and presence through their branches in Ba (Nadi and Ba), Ra (Rakiraki), and Macuata (Labasa) Provinces, as well as providing insight into violence against women in communities where there are cultural barriers to discussing such matters. Their experience and contributions could help prevent stakeholder fatigue by understanding what earlier gender and GEDSI interventions may have taken place in communities, as well as gender priorities for policy harmonization. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If the FWCC becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual |

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|  |                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|  | NGO Coalition on Human Rights (NGOCHR) | With a rotating secretariat, comprises NGOs active in community development and human rights in the CRRP provinces of focus. The NGOCHR will be involved in the Project as a participant in Annual Civil Society Roundtables, and 6-monthly update and feedback sessions. If it becomes an implementing partner, it would participate in PMU updates to implementors. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to attract funds to support their existing programs and initiatives. | The NGO Coalition on Human Rights (NGOCHR), as the national civil society grouping that plays a watchdog role on gender, social, cultural, and other human rights in Fiji, will have a positive impact on the Project through its existing relationships, experience, and insights into human rights issues in project-affected communities. Their contributions could have a positive impact on the Project's stakeholder engagement and coordination due to their into understanding of historical and existing policy concerns, dynamics, and priorities relating to human rights within reef conservation and natural resource management. This underscores the need for their inclusion in the Annual Civil Society Roundtable and 6-Monthly Civil Society Update and Feedback Sessions. If the NGOCHR becomes an implementing partner for the Project, they would also be involved in Monthly PMU Updates to partners and subcontractors. As with all implementing partners, track records and reputation in communities would also influence the Project in terms of managing relationships and ensuring impact for activities. For this reason, every opportunity would need to be taken to provide relevant support to ensure mutual compliance to standards in accordance with GCF, Fiji Government and WWF policies and frameworks. |
|  | World Bank                             | Involved in funding a river dredging project in Ba Province, where the CRRP will work. The World Bank will be involved in the Project by informing policy harmonization and implementation coordination as a participant in GSR Annual Planning Workshops, and quarterly CRRP Update and Feedback Sessions. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to see return on their investments.                                                                                            | As a provider of loans, technical assistance, and funder of infrastructure and development projects across Fiji, the work of the World Bank is likely to impact the Project through its infrastructure projects. Given the World Bank are regularly involved at national and provincial levels for infrastructure projects and technical assistance, it would be useful to understand the various ways in which their work will intersect with Project interventions. For example, the World Bank is funding the Jobs 4 Nature project that many Provincial Conservation Officers are directly facilitating in villages. World Bank participation in the Annual Planning Workshop and Quarterly Update and Feedback Sessions                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

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|                              |                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | would influence the Project's coordination capabilities, helping to streamline consultations through a stronger understanding of the bandwidth of government ministries and institutions, as well as other development actors who may also be involved in World Bank activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Multilateral Agencies</b> | Asian Development Bank (ADB)                | Involved in disaster response, private sector support, and infrastructure investments in Vanua Levu and Viti Levu. The ADB will be involved in the Project by informing policy harmonization and implementation coordination as a participant in GSR Annual Planning Workshops, and quarterly CRRP Update and Feedback Sessions. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to see return on their investments.                                                                                                         | As a provider of loans, technical assistance, and funder of infrastructure and development projects across Fiji, the work of the ADB is likely to impact the Project through its infrastructure projects. Given the ADB are regularly involved at national and provincial levels for infrastructure projects, private sector support, and technical assistance, it would be useful to understand the various ways in which their work will intersect with Project interventions. For example, the ADB has a project planned for improving access to finance for women-owned small and medium enterprises. ADB participation in the Annual Planning Workshop and Quarterly Update and Feedback Sessions would influence the Project's coordination capabilities, helping to streamline consultations through a stronger understanding of the bandwidth of government ministries and institutions, as well as other development actors who may also be involved in ADB activities. |
|                              | United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) | Funder of climate change projects across all Fiji's provinces, including funding the work of NGOs like C3 Fiji in Macuata Province, where the CRRP will work. The UNDP will be involved in the Project by informing policy harmonization and implementation coordination as a participant in GSR Annual Planning Workshops, and quarterly CRRP Update and Feedback Sessions. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, to see impacts for their activities and to attract funds to support their programs and initiatives. | As a funder of development projects in human rights, private sector development, climate change, governance, and livelihoods across Fiji, the work of the UNDP is likely to impact the Project. Given the UNDP are regularly involved at national and provincial levels for development projects, private sector support, and technical assistance, it would be useful to understand the various ways in which their work will intersect with Project interventions. UNDP participation in the Annual Planning Workshop and Quarterly Update and Feedback Sessions, with its prioritization of climate change, would influence the Project's coordination capabilities, helping to streamline consultations through a stronger understanding of the bandwidth of government ministries and institutions, as well as other development actors who may also be involved in UNDP activities.                                                                                        |

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|  | Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) | Involved in earlier consultations, undertaking a complementary Green Climate Fund proposal process, also working with the Fiji Development Bank (FDB) and focusing on many of the same project areas as the CRRP. The FAO will be involved in the Project by informing policy harmonization and implementation coordination as a participant in GSR Annual Planning Workshops, and quarterly CRRP Update and Feedback Sessions. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, to see impacts for their activities and to attract funds to support their programs and initiatives. | As a funder of forestry and agriculture-related projects across Fiji, the work of the FAO is likely to impact the Project. This is more so the case than with other multilateral agencies, given that the FAO is undertaking its own GCF funding submission process alongside the Fiji Government (Ministry of Forestry), focusing on many of the same areas as the Project, but focused on land-based interventions and outcomes. Given the FAO are regularly involved at national and provincial levels for forestry and agriculture support, and technical assistance, it would be useful to understand the various ways in which their work will intersect with Project interventions. FAO participation in the Annual Planning Workshop and Quarterly Update and Feedback Sessions, with its prioritization of climate change and interventions in the Project area, would influence the Project's coordination capabilities, helping to streamline consultations through a stronger understanding of the bandwidth of government ministries and institutions, as well as other development actors who may also be involved in FAO activities. |
|  | UN Women                                | Funding for the upgrade of municipal markets with a focus on support for women market vendors across the country, particularly in Ra Province where the CRRP works. UN Women will be involved in the Project by informing policy harmonization and implementation coordination as a participant in GSR Annual Planning Workshops, and quarterly CRRP Update and Feedback Sessions. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, to see impacts for their activities and to attract funds to support their programs and initiatives.                                              | As a funder of development projects for women's rights, women's economic empowerment, and gender equality across Fiji, the work of UN Women is likely to impact the Project. Given that UN Women is regularly involved at national and provincial levels for development programming, policy and technical assistance related to gender equality, it would be useful to understand the various ways in which their work will intersect with Project interventions e.g. their investment in market infrastructure in the Ra Province aimed at benefitting women market vendors. UN Women participation in the Annual Planning Workshop and Quarterly Update and Feedback Sessions, with its prioritization of women's economic empowerment and interventions in the Project areas, would influence the Project's coordination capabilities, helping to streamline consultations with a GEDSI sensitive approach and with a stronger understanding of the bandwidth of government                                                                                                                                                                     |

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|  |                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | ministries, women's groups, as well as other development actors who may also be involved in UN Women activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  | Pacific Community (SPC)                          | GSR Steering Committee member. Regional organization supporting technical assistance in disaster resilience, climate change, fisheries, food security, and sustainable livelihoods. The SPC will be involved in the Project by informing policy harmonization and implementation coordination as a participant in GSR Annual Planning Workshops, and quarterly CRRP Update and Feedback Sessions. Their interests would be to serve their member countries by implementing their strategic priorities successfully, to see impacts for their activities and to attract funds to support their programs and initiatives. | As a GSR Steering Committee member and regional organization providing technical assistance across Fiji on issues ranging from climate change to disaster resilience, to gender equality and human rights, the work of SPC is likely to impact the Project. SPC is regularly involved at national and community levels for development programming, policy and technical assistance related to climate resilience and gender equality, making it useful for the Project to understand the various ways in which their work will intersect. SPC's participation in the Annual Planning Workshop and Quarterly Update and Feedback Sessions, with its involvement in disaster resilience, climate change, and gender, likely to be in the Project areas, would influence the Project's coordination capabilities, helping to streamline consultations with stakeholders with a stronger understanding of the bandwidth of government ministries, communities, as well as other development actors who may also be involved in SPC activities. |
|  | University of the South Pacific (USP)            | GSR Steering Committee member. Regional university with campuses in Fiji providing tertiary training, education, and research. USP will be involved in the Project by informing policy harmonization and implementation coordination as a participant in GSR Annual Planning Workshops, and quarterly CRRP Update and Feedback Sessions. Their interests would be to serve their member countries by implement their strategic priorities successfully, to see impacts for their activities and to attract funds to support their programs and initiatives.                                                             | As a GSR Steering Committee member and regional organization providing tertiary training, education, and research across Fiji on issues including marine science, climate change, tourism, and other areas, the work of USP is likely to impact the Project. USP Campuses are in the Macuata and Ba Provinces and USP is involved in research, education and training in marine science, climate change, and natural resource management. Through participation in the Annual Planning Workshop and Quarterly Update and Feedback Sessions, USP would influence the Project's coordination capabilities, helping to streamline consultations with stakeholders with a stronger understanding of the bandwidth of government ministries, communities, as well as other development actors who may also be involved in USP activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | Center for Integrated Development Pacific (CIDP) | GSR Steering Committee member (was then the Pacific Islands Development                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | As a GSR Steering Committee member and Pacific multilateral agency based in Fiji, working on combining                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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| Community Based Organizations |                         | Forum). The CIDP will be involved in the Project by informing policy harmonization and implementation coordination as a participant in GSR Annual Planning Workshops, and quarterly CRRP Update and Feedback Sessions. Their interests would be to serve their member countries by implementing their strategic priorities successfully, to see impacts for their activities and to attract funds to support their programs and initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | national, regional, and global frameworks for sustainable development in climate change and poverty alleviation, the work of CIDP is likely to impact the Project. CIDP would share the goal of policy harmonization with the Project, and its goal of harmonizing coral reef policy in Fiji. Through participation in the Annual Planning Workshop and Quarterly Update and Feedback Sessions, CIDP would influence the Project's coordination capabilities, helping to understand ongoing efforts to align global, regional, and national frameworks for harmonizing policy, as well as other development actors who may also be involved in CIDP activities.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|                               | National Youth Council  | Has been included in provincial roundtable consultations, is the umbrella body for the Provincial Youth Council of Fiji (under which the Bua Urban Youth Network is affiliated) and the Youth Assembly of the Fiji Islands. The National Youth Council will be involved in the Project, informing consultations through its participation in annual project-affected community focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and for those in communities directly involved in Project activities, monthly PMU updates. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, to see impacts for their activities and to attract funds to support youth programs and initiatives countrywide. | As a community-based organization with an interest in seeing young people's rights as well as the rights of marginalized communities respected and included in conservation matters, the National Youth Council of Fiji will bring valuable insights to the Project's consultations and activities. With young people comprising the majority of the country's population, youth are present in all the Project's affected communities. Considering the country's hierarchical culture, young people are not likely to have prominent voices. This underscores the need for the National Youth Council's participation in Annual Community Surveys (through focus groups), 6-Monthly Community Updates and Feedback Sessions. If Youth Council members are in project-affected communities, they would ideally participate in Monthly PMU Updates. The National Youth Council will influence the Project through an understanding of youth livelihood challenges and opportunities, capacity and skill needs, as well as the unique perspectives of young people in existing structures such as Youth Councils or youth groups in both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities. |
|                               | Bua Urban Youth Network | Network of young people with connections to Bua who reside in urban areas across Fiji, who remain involved in conservation issues in the Bua Province and who have translated                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | As a community-based organization with an interest in seeing young people's rights as well as the rights of marginalized communities respected and included in conservation matters particularly relating to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and extractive industries in the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |

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|  |                                    | <p>Oxfam Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) materials for use in their home province. The Bua Urban Youth Network will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual project-affected community focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and for those in communities directly involved in Project activities, monthly PMU updates. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, to see impacts for their activities and to attract funds to support youth programs and initiatives in the province.</p>                                                                                                                                               | <p>Bua Province, the Bua Urban Youth Network will bring valuable insights to the Project's consultations and activities in the province. With young people comprising the majority of the country's population, youth are present in all the Project's affected communities. Considering the country's hierarchical culture, young people are not likely to have prominent voices. This underscores the need for the Bua Urban Youth Network's participation in Annual Community Surveys (through focus groups), 6-Monthly Community Updates and Feedback Sessions. If Bua Urban Youth Network members are in project-affected communities, they would ideally participate in Monthly PMU Updates. The Bua Urban Youth Network will influence the Project through an understanding of youth livelihood challenges and opportunities, capacity and skill needs, as well as the unique perspectives of young people in existing structures in both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities.</p>                                                                                          |
|  | Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei (SSVM) | <p>Fiji's largest and oldest Indigenous (iTaukei) women's organization, non-political and non-sectarian, promoting women's interests in the development of their villages, working with the decision making structures mandated by the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944. The SSVM will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual project-affected community focus groups, 6-monthly community update and feedback sessions, and for those in communities directly involved in Project activities, monthly PMU updates. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, to see impacts for their activities and to attract funds to support iTaukei women's programs and initiatives.</p> | <p>Has interest in seeing Indigenous (iTaukei) women's rights respected and included in conservation matters.</p> <p>As a community-based organization with an interest in seeing Indigenous (iTaukei) women's rights respected and included in conservation matters, the Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei (SSVM) will bring valuable insights to the Project's consultations and activities in the province. With iTaukei women present in all of the Project's affected communities and considering the country's male-dominated culture, women are not likely to have prominent voices in communities. This underscores the need for the SSVM's participation in Annual Community Surveys (through focus groups), 6-Monthly Community Updates and Feedback Sessions. If SSVM members are in project-affected communities, they would ideally participate in Monthly PMU Updates. The SSVM's network will influence the Project through an understanding of iTaukei women's livelihood challenges and opportunities, capacity and skill needs, as well as the unique perspectives</p> |

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|                       |                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | of iTaukei in existing structures like Women's Committees in iTaukei villages.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|                       | ANZ Bank                    | GSR Steering Committee member. Financial literacy program and financial product/service provider. The ANZ Bank will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and for those involved in grant facility activities, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to generate profits for shareholders through return on their investments.                                                                                         | As a GSR Steering Committee member, national financial services provider, and financial literacy supporter in Fiji, ANZ Bank will certainly impact the Project. ANZ would impact the Project in terms of its institutional memory and understanding of the national market in terms of informing policy harmonization and the grant facility for sustainable enterprises. ANZ is well placed to offer insights and advice on similar projects it has led, collaborated with, or encountered in the private sector landscape. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become involved in the grant facility, in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They have the potential to influence the Project's activities to assist with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies.                                                                              |
| <b>Private Sector</b> | Fiji Development Bank (FDB) | Delivery partner for the CRRP, supporting component three in working with financial institutions (banks) in assessing businesses to deliver credit for sustainable enterprises and work with businesses to be investment ready for sustainable operations. Will also support the design and implementation of a grant facility to invest in market based solutions. The FDB, as a statutory body mandated by the Fiji Development Bank Act 1966, will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and for those involved in | FDB is likely to have an impact on the Project's work as a delivery partner for Component 3, and a financial services provider for development of the Fiji economy. This is part of its legally mandated role as a national statutory body under the Fiji Development Bank Act 1966. FDB has an interest in informing technical support for financial institutions and businesses as part of designing and implementing an impactful grant facility under the Project's Component 3. Besides its integral role as a deliver partner, FDB stands to positively impact the Project in terms of its institutional memory and understanding of the national market in terms of informing policy harmonization and the grant facility for sustainable enterprises. FDB is well placed to offer insights and advice on similar projects it has led, collaborated with, or encountered in the private sector landscape. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and |

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|  |                           | grant facility activities, will provide monthly updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to implement their strategic priorities successfully, and to generate profits for shareholders through return on their investments.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | delivering Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in Component 3, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|  | BioEnergy Insight Pacific | Fiji-based energy company addressing climate change through disruptive technology. BioEnergy Insight Pacific will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives. | As an energy company focused on leveraging technology to address climate change, BioEnergy Insight Pacific has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Given their presence in communities in Fiji where they have undertaken pilot programs and projects with funding from development agencies like UNDP Pacific, BioEnergy Insight Pacific is well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for sustainable enterprises. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in ecosystem interventions, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies in the use of technology to address climate change. |
|  | Cacao Fiji                | Fijian cacao exporter and supplier for craft chocolate. Cacao Fiji will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through                                                                                                                                                      | As an agricultural exporter, Cacao Fiji has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Given their presence in communities in Fiji, particularly in the Macuata Province where they operate a cocoa farm, Cacao Fiji is well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for sustainable enterprises related to sustainable agricultural practices and livelihoods. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

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|  |                                          | return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization for sustainable agriculture, ecosystem interventions related to farming, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through farming.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|  | Barefoot Collection                      | Comprises two resorts and five dive shops throughout Fiji, including in the Ba province. The Barefoot Collection will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives. | As a collection of tourism operators, the Barefoot Collection has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Given their presence in communities in the Ba Province and across Fiji where they operate two resorts and five dive shops, the Barefoot Collection is well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for sustainable tourism enterprises. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization for sustainable tourism, ecosystem interventions related to coral reefs, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through tourism. |
|  | Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited (FHCL) | State-owned enterprise overseeing sustainable management of Fiji's mahogany plantations. The Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to                                                                                                                                                                              | A state-owned enterprise overseeing Fiji's mahogany plantations, the Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. While they would work more directly with the FAO's proposed GCF-funded project focused on forestry, their work with mataqalis who hold customary ownership over mahogany plantations in Fiji makes Fiji Hardwood Corporation Limited well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

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|  |                   | grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives.                                                                                                                                                 | sustainable forestry. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, and 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization linked to sustainable forestry, ecosystem interventions connected to forestry, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination (particularly with the proposed FAO-coordinated GCF forestry project) to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through forestry and agriculture.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|  | Fiji Pine Limited | GSR Steering Committee member. Government enterprise aimed at utilizing iTaukei owned land for pine plantations and supplying pine while sharing profits with land owners. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives. | A state-owned enterprise utilizing iTaukei land for pine plantations, Fiji Pine Limited has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. While they would work more directly with the FAO's proposed GCF-funded project focused on forestry, their work with mataqalis who hold customary ownership over pine plantations in Fiji makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for sustainable forestry. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, and 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization linked to sustainable forestry, ecosystem interventions connected to forestry, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination (particularly with the proposed FAO-coordinated GCF forestry project) to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through forestry and agriculture. |
|  | Essence of Fiji   | Environmentally focused skincare range made in Fiji, geared towards the spa industry - largely tourism-oriented. Essence of Fiji will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly                                                                         | An environmentally focused skincare range based on seaweed harvested in Fiji, Essence of Fiji has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Their work with communities (including women) harvesting seaweed in Fiji makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|  |                                                      | private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | support for sustainable enterprises. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization linked to aquaculture, ecosystem interventions connected to aquaculture, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through aquaculture and business.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|  | Ra, Ba, Macuata and Bua Provincial Holding Companies | Business arms of the respective provincial councils. Ra, Ba, Macuata, and Bua Provincial Holding Companies will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives in their respective provinces. | Business arms of the provincial councils in each of the Project's four provinces, the Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua Provincial Holding Companies have great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Their work in progressing the commercial aspirations of provinces in Fiji makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for sustainable enterprises. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become grant recipients, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization linked to provincial development, ecosystem interventions, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through provincial investments. |
|  | Ra, Ba, Macuata and Bua tourism associations         | Comprising membership of tourism operators in the respective provinces - some more formalized than others (e.g. Tourism Suncoast for the Ra province) and in varying degrees of active status. Provincial tourism                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Tourism operator marketing collectives for each of the Project's four provinces, the Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua tourism associations have great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Their work in progressing the tourism aspirations of provinces in Fiji makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|  |                               | associations will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives in their respective provinces.                                                       | Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for sustainable tourism. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become grant recipients, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization linked to tourism, ecosystem interventions, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through tourism.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | Fiji Cane Growers Association | National union for cane farmers. The Fiji Cane Growers Association will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives in their respective provinces. | The national sugar cane farmer union has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Their work in progressing the aspirations of cane farmers across all four of the Project's provinces makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for sustainable cane farming. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become grant recipients, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization linked to agriculture, ecosystem interventions, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through agriculture. |
|  | Tabla Rice Cooperative        | Rice farmers cooperative. Tabla Rice Cooperative will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | As rice farmers collective, the Tabla Rice Cooperative has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Their work in progressing the aspirations of rice farmers across all four of the Project's Vanua Levu provinces (Bua and Macuata) makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for sustainable cane farming. This underscores the                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

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|  |                                                | recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become grant recipients, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization linked to agriculture, ecosystem interventions, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through agriculture.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|  | Jo Nacola Trust Agroforestry and Reforestation | Family trust in the Ra province focused on forest restoration and conservation. The Jo Nacola Trust will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their forest regeneration and protection initiatives. | As a family trust focused on forest conservation in the Ra Province, the Jo Nacola Trust has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. While they would work more directly with the FAO's proposed GCF-funded project focused on forestry, their work in progressing reforestation and forest conservation in the Ra Province makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions, and support for sustainable forestry and forest conservation. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become grant recipients, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization linked to forestry and conservation, ecosystem interventions, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through forest conservation. |
|  | Okra Cooperative                               | Okra growers cooperative. Okra Cooperative will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | An okra growers collective, the Okra Cooperative has some potential to positively impact the Project's work. Their work in progressing the aspirations of okra growers across some areas of Fiji makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for sustainable agriculture. They could be informative participants in the Annual Private Sector                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |

|  |                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
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|  |                      | monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become grant recipients, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in ecosystem interventions linked to agriculture, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through agriculture.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|  | Nasolo Sololevu Kava | Bua-based kava exporters. Nasolo Sololevu Kava will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives. | As Bua-based kava exporters, Nasolo Sololevu Kava has great potential to positively impact the Project's work in the Bua Province. Their work in progressing the aspirations of kava growers across Bua makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for sustainable agriculture. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become grant recipients, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in ecosystem interventions linked to agriculture, assisting with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through agriculture. |
|  | Tavua Florist Bloom  | Ba province floriculture business, based in the town of Tavua. Tavua Florist Bloom will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business                                  | As a floriculture business in the Ba Province, Tavua Florist Bloom has great potential to positively impact the Project's work in the Ba Province. Their work in progressing the aspirations of florist business owners across Ba makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for sustainable floriculture. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in ecosystem interventions linked to floriculture, and support                                                                                                                                             |

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|  |                             | partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | for sustainable enterprises. Their participation could also assist the Project with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through floriculture.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|  | CI Community Nurseries      | A network of 28 community forest replanting projects in the Ra province. CI Community Nurseries will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate sustainable livelihoods as an alternative to logging, and attracting funding for their community income generation and forest conservation initiatives. | As a Conservation International (CI) network of 28 community forest replanting projects in the Ra Province, CI Community Nurseries has great potential to positively impact the Project's work in the Ra Province. While they would work more directly with the FAO's proposed GCF-funded project focused on forestry, their work in progressing the aspirations of communities involved in replanting forests across Ra makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for sustainable forestry. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in ecosystem interventions linked to forestry, and support for sustainable enterprises. Their participation could also assist the Project with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination (especially with the FAO's proposed GCF forestry project) to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through forestry. |
|  | Lautoka Fishers Cooperative | A cooperative of fishers in the Ba Province, based in the city of Lautoka. The Lautoka Fisheries Cooperative will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate sustainable livelihoods as an alternative to overfishing, and attracting funding for                                                       | A cooperative of fishers in the Ba Province, the Lautoka Fishers Cooperative has great potential to positively impact the Project's work in the Ba Province. Their work in progressing the aspirations of fishers across Ba makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for sustainable fisheries. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions linked to fisheries,                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

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|  |                         | their community income generation and support for sustainable fisheries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | and support for sustainable enterprises. Their participation could also assist the Project with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through fisheries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  | Macuata Oyster Hatchery | Oyster hatchery in the Macuata Province. The Macuata Oyster Hatchery will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives. | An oyster hatchery in the Macuata Province, the Macuata Oyster Hatchery has great potential to positively impact the Project's work in the Macuata Province. Their work in progressing the aspirations of oyster farmers across Macuata makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for sustainable aquaculture. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in ecosystem interventions linked to aquaculture, and support for sustainable enterprises. Their participation could also assist the Project with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through aquaculture. |
|  | Matanataki              | Fiji-based business development and investment management company focused on social and environmental sustainability. Matanataki will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business          | A Fiji business management company focused on social and environmental sustainability, Matanataki has great potential to positively impact the Project's work in all four provinces. Their work in progressing the aspirations of sustainable enterprises makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for sustainable business practices. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions linked to businesses, and support                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

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|  |                              | partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | for sustainable enterprises. Their participation could also assist the Project with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for socially and environmentally sustainable businesses.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|  | Fijian Holdings Limited      | iTaukei-owned investment company. Fijian Holdings Limited will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives. | A national iTaukei-owned investment company, Fijian Holdings Limited has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Their work in progressing the aspirations of iTaukei investors makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for sustainable enterprises. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization, ecosystem interventions linked to businesses, and support for sustainable enterprises. Their participation could also assist the Project with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through investment. |
|  | Fiji National Provident Fund | National superannuation fund. FNPF will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients.                                                                                                                                                                                        | As Fiji's superannuation fund, the Fiji National Provident Fund has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Their work in progressing the aspirations of pensioners and superannuation investors makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for sustainable enterprises. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization, and support for sustainable enterprises. Their participation could also assist the Project with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and                                                                                                                                             |

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|  |                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through private sector support.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | Unit Trust Fiji | National unit trust provider. Unit Trust Fiji will be involved in the Project informing consultations through its participation in annual Private Sector Roundtables, 6-monthly private sector update and feedback sessions, and if a grant recipient, monthly FDB updates to grant facility recipients. Their interests would be to generate profits through return on their investments, business partnerships, and attracting funding for their business initiatives. | Fiji's national unit trust provider, the Unit Trust of Fiji has great potential to positively impact the Project's work. Their work in progressing the aspirations of unit trust investors makes them well positioned to provide informed contributions to the Project's components for support for financial institutions. This underscores the need for their participation in the Annual Private Sector Roundtable, 6-Monthly Update and Feedback Sessions to the sector, and if they become a grant recipient, they would participate in Monthly FDB Updates to Grant Facility Recipients. They would influence the Project's activities, especially in policy harmonization, and support for sustainable enterprises. Their participation could also assist the Project with mapping stakeholders, streamlining consultations, and strengthening coordination to maximize impact and efficiencies for sustainable livelihoods through private sector support. |
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## Appendix 2: Systematic Documentation of Stakeholder Consultations

| Number of Consultations | Number of Participants | Description of Consultation         | Location                                                        | Ethnicity and Faith                          | Gender             | Age         |
|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| 22/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Labasa District (Waidamudamu Vunimoli), Macuata Province        | Indo-Fijian, Muslim                          | Female             | 36-50 years |
| 23/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Labasa District (Siberia, Batinikama, Namoli), Macuata Province | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                           | Male               | 18-35 years |
| 23/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Labasa District (Vunicuicui), Macuata Province                  | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                           | Female             | 51-60 years |
| 23/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Dreketi District, Macuata Province                              | iTaukei, Christian                           | Male               | 36-50 years |
| 23/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Sasa District, Macuata Province                                 | iTaukei, Christian                           | Male               | 60 years +  |
| 23/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Nadogo District, Macuata Province                               | iTaukei, Christian                           | Male               | 36-50 years |
| 23/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Mali District, Macuata Province                                 | iTaukei, Christian                           | Male               | 36-50 years |
| 23/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Labasa District , Macuata Province                              | iTaukei, Christian                           | Male               | 18-35 years |
| 24/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Vuya District (Nabouwalu), Bua Province                         | Indo-Fijian, Muslim                          | Male               | 36-50 years |
| 24/07/2024              | 1                      | Key Informant Interview             | Vuya District (Nabouwalu), Bua Province                         | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                           | Male               | 51-60 years |
| 05/08/2024              | 8                      | Focus Group - Provincial Roundtable | Bua Province                                                    | 7 iTaukei, Christian<br>1 Indo-Fijian, Hindu | 3 Females, 5 Males | 18-60 years |

|            |    |                         |                                                 |                                                           |                      |               |
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|            |    |                         |                                                 |                                                           |                      |               |
| 05/08/2024 | 31 | Focus Group - Village   | Bua Village, Bua District, Bua Province         | iTaukeis, Christian                                       | 25 Females, 5 Males  | 18-60 years + |
| 05/08/2024 | 9  | Focus Group - Village   | Namuavoivoi Village, Lekutu District            | iTaukeis, Christian                                       | 9 Males              | 25-60 years + |
| 05/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Lekutu District, Bua Province                   | iTaukei, Christian                                        | Female               | 60 years +    |
| 05/08/2024 | 37 | Focus Group - Village   | Namuavoivoi Village, Bua District, Bua Province | iTaukeis, Christians                                      | Females              | 36-50 years   |
| 05/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Bua District (Bua Village), Bua Province        | iTaukei, Christian                                        | Male                 | 36-50 years   |
| 05/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Lekutu District, Bua Province                   | iTaukei, Christian                                        | Male                 | 36-50 years   |
| 06/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Vuya District, Bua Province                     | iTaukei, Christian                                        | Female               | 60 years +    |
| 06/08/2024 | 13 | Focus Group - Village   | Nabouwalu Village, Vuya District, Bua Province  | iTaukeis, Christians<br><br>4 males 18-60+ years          | 7 Females, 6 Males   | 18-60 years + |
| 06/08/2024 | 30 | Focus Group - Village   | Driti Village, Dama District, Bua Province      | iTaukeis;<br><br>Christians;<br><br>3 females 18-60 years | 13 Females, 17 Males | 18-60 years + |
| 06/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Bua District (Bua Village), Bua Province        | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                                        | Male                 | 51-60 years   |
| 06/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Vuya District (Nabouwalu), Bua Province         | iTaukei, Christian                                        | Male                 | 60 years +    |
| 06/08/24   | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Namau, Bua Province                             | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                                        | Female               | 38-50 years   |

|            |    |                               |                                                     |                                                                                                              |                     |               |
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| 07/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview       | Bua District (Bua Village), Bua Province            | iTaukei, Christian                                                                                           | Female              | 60 years +    |
| 07/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview       | Dreketi District (Nabiti Village), Macuata Province | iTaukei, Christian                                                                                           | Female              | 18-35 years   |
| 07/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview       | Mali District (Nakawaga), Macuata Province          | iTaukei, Christian                                                                                           | Female              | 36-50 years   |
| 07/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview       | Delailabasa, Macuata Province                       | Indo-Fijian, Muslim                                                                                          | Male                | 60 years +    |
| 08/08/2024 | 8  | Focus Group - Community Group | Labasa District, Macuata Province                   | 2 Indo-Fijians, Hindu and Muslim<br><br>6 iTaukeis, Christians<br><br>Females 18-50 years, Males 18-50 years | Males and Females   | 18-50 years   |
| 08/08/0024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview       | Nadogo District (Nubu Village), Macuata Province    | iTaukei, Christian                                                                                           | Female              | 60 years +    |
| 08/08/2024 | 15 | Focus Group - Village         | Nubu Village, Nadogo District, Macuata Province     | iTaukeis, Christians                                                                                         | 7 Females, 8 Males  | 18-60 years + |
| 08/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview       | Mali District, Macuata Province                     | iTaukei, Christian                                                                                           | Male                | 36-50 years   |
| 08/08/2024 | 20 | Focus Group - Village         | Nakawaga Village, Mali District, Macuata Province   | iTaukeis, Christians                                                                                         | 8 Females, 12 Males | 18-60 years   |
| 09/08/24   | 1  | Key Informant Interview       | Macuata Province                                    | iTaukei, Christian                                                                                           | Female              | 38-50 years   |

|            |    |                                                   |                                                |                                                      |                     |               |
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| 09/08/2024 | 16 | Focus Group - Village                             | Sasa Village, Sasa District, Macuata Province  | iTaukeis, Christians                                 | 12 Females, 4 Males | 18-60+ years  |
| 09/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview                           | Sasa District, Macuata Province                | iTaukei, Christians                                  | Male                | 18-35 years   |
| 12/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview                           | Ba District, Ba Province                       | iTaukei, Christians                                  | Male                | 60 years +    |
| 12/08/24   | 12 | Focus Group - Community (Unregistered Settlement) | Nakavika District, Ba Province                 | iTaukei, Christians                                  | 12 Males            | 18-60+ years  |
| 12/08/24   | 3  | Focus Group - Village                             | Narewa Village, Nadi District, Ba Province     | iTaukei, Christians                                  | 3 Males             | 35-60 years + |
| 13/08/2024 | 12 | Focus Group - Provincial                          | Ba Provincial Council, Lautoka                 | 11 iTaukeis, Christians<br><br>1 Indo-Fijian, Muslim | 2 Females, 10 Males | 51-60 years   |
| 13/08/2024 | 2  | Key Informant Interviews                          | Sarava District, Ba Province                   | Indo-Fijians & iTaukeis, Christian                   | 2 Males             | 36-50 years   |
| 13/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview                           | Ba District, Ba Province                       | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                                   | Male                | 36-50 years   |
| 13/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview                           | Ba District, Ba Province                       | Indo-Fijian, Muslim                                  | Male                | 18-35 years   |
| 14/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview                           | Ba District (Ba Town), Ba Province             | Indo-Fijian, Christian                               | Male                | 36-50 years   |
| 14/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview                           | Nailaga District (Natutu Village), Ba Province | iTaukei, Christian                                   | Male                | 36-50 years   |
| 14/08/2024 | 4  | Focus Group - Village                             | Viseisei Village, Vuda District, Ba Province   | iTaukeis, Christians                                 | 2 Females, 2 Males  | 36-60 years + |
| 14/08/2024 | 8  | Focus Group - Village                             | Natutu Village, Nailaga District, Ba Province  | iTaukeis; Christians;                                | 5 Females, 3 Males  | 18-60 years + |

|            |    |                         |                                                                           |                        |                   |               |
|------------|----|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|---------------|
|            |    |                         |                                                                           | 4 females 18-60+ years |                   |               |
| 14/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Tavarau District, Ba Province                                             | Indo-Fijian, Hindu     | Male              | 36-50 years   |
| 14/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Tavarau District, Ba Province                                             | Indo-Fijian, Hindu     | Male              | 51-60 years   |
| 14/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Tavarau District, Ba Province                                             | Indo-Fijian, Hindu     | Male              | 51-60 years   |
| 14/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Navau, Ba Province                                                        | Indo-Fijian, Hindu     | Male              | 51-60 years   |
| 14/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Navau, Ba Province                                                        | Indo-Fijian, Hindu     | Male              | 36-50 years   |
| 15/08/2024 | 7  | Focus Group - Village   | Toge Village, Naloto District, Ba Province                                | iTaukeis, Christians   | 1 Female, 6 Males | 18-60 years   |
| 15/08/24   | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Nailaga District, Ba Province                                             | Indo-Fijian, Muslim    | Male              | Not provided  |
| 15/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Naloto District (Toge Village), Ba Province                               | iTaukei, Christian     | Male              | 36-50 years   |
| 19/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Navolau District, Ra Province                                             | iTaukei, Christian     | Female            | 36-50 years   |
| 20/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Volivoli District, Ra Province                                            | Indo-Fijian, Muslim    | Male              | 51-60 years   |
| 20/08/24   | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Volivoli District, Ra Province                                            | Indo-Fijian, Hindu     | Male              | 40s           |
| 20/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Naroko District (Naroko Village), Ra Province                             | iTaukei, Christian     | Female            | 36-50 years   |
| 20/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Volivoli District, Ra Province                                            | Indo-Fijian, Muslim    | Male              | 36-50 years   |
| 20/08/2024 | 5  | Focus Group - Community | Uluda Holdings Committee, Mata ni Tikinas, Rakiraki District, Ra Province | iTaukeis, Christians   | 5 Males           | 18-50 years   |
| 20/08/24   | 22 | Focus Group - Village   | Rewasa Village, Rakiraki District, Ra Province                            | iTaukeis, Christians   | 22 Females        | 18-60 years + |
| 21/08/2024 | 1  | Key Informant Interview | Volivoli District, Ra Province                                            | Indo-Fijian, Muslim    | Male              | 51-60 years   |

|              |              |                         |                                                   |                                                                    |                                 |               |
|--------------|--------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------|
| 21/08/2024   | 1            | Key Informant Interview | Rakiraki District (Malake Village), Ra Province   | iTaukei, Christian                                                 | Female                          | 36-50 years   |
| 21/08/2024   | 1            | Key Informant Interview | Ellington, Ra Province                            | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                                                 | Male                            | 18-35 years   |
| 21/08/2024   | 16           | Focus Group - Village   | Malake Village, Rakiraki District, Ra Province    | iTaukeis, Christians                                               | 16 Females                      | 18-35 years   |
| 21/08/2024   | 1            | Key Informant Interview | Caulasi District, Ra Province                     | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                                                 | Male                            | 36-50 years   |
| 21/08/2024   | 1            | Key Informant Interview | Caulasi District, Ra Province                     | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                                                 | Male                            | 36-50 years   |
| 22/08/2024   | 1            | Key Informant Interview | Naisagaliku District, Ra Province                 | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                                                 | Male                            | 36-50 years   |
| 22/08/2024   | 1            | Key Informant Interview | Rakiraki District (Vitawa Village), Ra Province   | iTaukei;<br><br>Christian;<br><br>1 female 36-50 years             | Female                          | 36-50 years   |
| 22/08/2024   | Not provided | Focus Group - Village   | Namuaimada Village, Navolau District, Ra Province | iTaukeis, Christians<br><br>Females 18-35 years, Males 18-35 years | Not provided                    | Not provided  |
| 22/08/2024   | 24           | Focus Group - Village   | Vitawa Village, Rakiraki District, Ra Province    | iTaukeis, Christians                                               | 24 Females                      | 18-60 years + |
| 22/08/2024   | 1            | Key Informant Interview | Volivoli District, Ra Province                    | Indo-Fijian, Hindu                                                 | Male                            | 36-50 years   |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>359</b>   |                         |                                                   | <b>332 iTaukeis, 27 Indo-Fijians</b>                               | <b>~155 Males, ~204 Females</b> |               |

## SUMMARY REPORT

### CORAL REEF RESILIENCE PROJECT

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# SUMMARY REPORT

## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this summary report is to outline the findings of stakeholder consultations undertaken across Macuata, Bua, Ba and Ra provinces in August 2024. Guided by WWF US and WWF Pacific, drawing on earlier project documentation and building on earlier stakeholder engagement efforts, the objectives of the consultations were to share information and updates with stakeholders, seek their feedback on project interventions, and welcome their advice for meaningful, effective and informed ways to engage with project affected communities throughout the life cycle of the GCF-funded WWF Coral Reef Resilience Project (CRRP) in Fiji's Great Sea Reef (GSR).

With WWF US as the accredited entity (AE), WWF Pacific serves as the CRRP executing entity (EE), with the Fiji Ministry for Environment & Climate Change (MECC) as lead Government implementing partner and as National Designated Authority (NDA) providing technical support. The Fiji Development Bank (FDB) will be a delivery partner, receiving GCF funds to issue as grants to community based enterprises through the Community Facility.

## 2. Preamble

These stakeholder consultations were guided by the WWF Standard on Stakeholder Engagement and its Procedures for Implementation of Standard on Stakeholder Engagement, with the primary intent to consolidate ongoing contributions into the project's **Stakeholder Engagement Plan (SEP)**. In line with the WWF Policy Statement on Indigenous Peoples and Conservation, these consultations engaged **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** approaches, equally mindful of both iTaukei (Indigenous) and Indo-Fijian communities in project sites and vulnerable, marginalized groups throughout every community.

The Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) of Ba, Ra, Macuata and Bua provinces will comprise the main beneficiaries of this project, specifically the two main ethnic groups of Fiji - iTaukei (Indigenous) and Indo-Fijians who arrived in the 1870s as indentured laborers and later as merchants under the British colonial administration. Considering the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) IPLCs are defined as "ethnic groups who are descended from and identify with the original inhabitants of a given region, in contrast to groups that have settled, occupied or colonized the area more recently." In Fiji's context, given that iTaukei make up the majority of the population followed by Indo-Fijians, the IPLC term will be used to denote iTaukei as Indigenous Peoples and Indo-Fijians as being members of Local Communities. For the purpose of this Summary Report and taking into account the distinct ways in which iTaukei and Indo-Fijians self-organize, references to villages will specifically refer to iTaukei communities while references to settlements will specifically refer to Indo-Fijian communities - unless otherwise specified.

The consultations were focused on the project's four provinces of Macuata, Bua, Ba and Ra. A total of 359 individuals were consulted across the four provinces, comprising 92% iTaukei and 8% Indo-Fijians. Informed by WWF Pacific previous consultations and University of Queensland-led feasibility study in early 2024, communities and villages were sampled from 15 districts where conservation interventions

were anticipated to be clustered, and taking account a variety of geographic characteristics (e.g. island, coastal, inland, etc.). Stakeholder consultations were done in four villages in each of the provinces (16 villages in total), selected by WWF Pacific and validated by Provincial Councils. Three provincial multi-stakeholder roundtables, 19 focus group discussions and 47 key informant interviews took place, engaging Provincial Councils, community-based organization representatives, fishers and community members comprising Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) and Local Communities (Indo-Fijians). Provincial roundtables comprised a variety of representatives including women's interest and youth representatives, health ministry officials, conservation officers, *Roko Tuis* (provincial administrators), and *Mata ni Tikinas* (district representatives).

Consultations with Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) were undertaken in accordance with decision-making structures overseen by Provincial Councils and mandated by the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944. Consultations with Local Communities (Indo-Fijians), who fall outside the scope of Indigenous decision-making structures, were undertaken via the District Advisory Councillor (DAC) network managed by District Offices (DOs) and through snowball sampling with contacts provided by civil society (primarily, Fiji's umbrella civil society organization, the Fiji Council of Social Services), community-based organizations and sectoral associations.

**Table 1. Summary of locations of consultations**

| Province | District                                   | Location            |
|----------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|
| Macuata  | Mali                                       | Nakawaga Village    |
|          | Dreketi                                    | Nabiti Village      |
|          | Sasa                                       | Sasa Village        |
|          | Nadogo                                     | Nubu Village        |
|          | Vuniuciuci Settlement                      |                     |
|          | Siberia, Batinikama and Namoli Settlements |                     |
|          | Delailabasa Settlement                     |                     |
| Bua      | Vuya                                       | Nabouwalu Village   |
|          | Lekutu                                     | Namuavoivoi Village |
|          | Dama                                       | Driti Village       |

|    |                            |                    |
|----|----------------------------|--------------------|
|    | Bua                        | Bua Village        |
|    | Narau Settlement           |                    |
| Ba | Nailaga                    | Natutu Village     |
|    | Vuda                       | Viseisei Village   |
|    | Naloto                     | Toge Village       |
|    | Nadi                       | Narewa Village     |
|    | Nakavika Settlement        |                    |
|    | Sarava Settlement          |                    |
|    | Tavarau Settlement         |                    |
|    | Navau Settlement           |                    |
|    | Nailaga Settlement         |                    |
| Ra | Naroko                     | Rewasa Village     |
|    | Rakiraki                   | Malake Village     |
|    | Rakiraki                   | Vitawa Village     |
|    | Navolau                    | Namuaimada Village |
|    | Volivoli Settlement        |                    |
|    | Caulasi Settlement         |                    |
|    | Naisogoliku Settlement     |                    |
|    | Ellington Wharf Settlement |                    |

### 3. Overview

This section will discuss the demographics of the four provinces and contextual issues they have in common such as livelihoods, risks, forms of collective decision-making, and the state of governance relating to natural resources and fisheries.

**Demographics.** The provinces of Macuata, Bua, Ba and Ra are situated on the northern coasts of the main islands of Vanua Levu and Viti Levu, adjacent to the GSR. Ba province on Viti Levu is the most populous, with a population of approximately 250,000 (2017 Census), followed by Macuata on Vanua Levu (66,000), Ra on Viti Levu (30,000), then Bua on Vanua Levu (15,500). Macuata and Bua provinces are located in the Northern Division, which has a poverty rate of 29% (2019-2020 Household Income and Expenditure Survey), and Ba and Ra are in the Western Division, with a slightly lower rate of 26.2%. Bua (96%), Ra (80%) and Macuata (59%) provinces have majority-rural populations in terms of percentage of population who are rural-dwelling, while Ba has a majority-urban population at only 33% of its population in rural areas.

**Livelihoods.** Altogether, 360,000 individuals (40% of Fiji's population) live in the four provinces bordering the GSR. These include those whose livelihoods are directly tied to GSR ecosystems. For example, small-scale fishers depend on coral and mangrove habitats for fisheries, coastal and inland farmers depend on access to clean freshwater for farming and household use. The sugar cane industry plays a significant role in the agricultural economy, attracting seasonal labor migration from across the country. In Bua and Ba, consultations also underscored the importance of the pine industry as another key sector. Beneficiaries across the four provinces include those working in tourism around the GSR, as well as individuals dependent on the supply of fish and marine products for inshore and urban markets.

**Risks.** Communities face risks from coastal flooding, saltwater intrusion, and other extreme events capable of being abated by healthy coastal ecosystems. Consultations raised the environmental and health risks associated with improper waste disposal, as many households and communities resort to using their own landfills, discarding rubbish in rivers or mangrove systems, and lacking access to municipal waste collection services. Pollution in rivers, mangrove systems and the ocean from nearby industries and urban areas was also discussed.

**Collective decision-making.** Indigenous Peoples are organized into decision-making structures mandated by the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944, in which there are *Bose va Koro* (village), *Bose ni Tikina* (district) and *Bose ni Yasana* (provincial council) meetings. At the village level, committees for women, youth, *yaubula* (conservation), health, education and a range of other priorities. Committees propose, contribute and implement projects, and the Yaubula Committee has district and provincial committees, feeding into the National Resource Owners Council (NROC) and National Environment Council (NEC). While there are distinct ways in which the process is arranged across provinces, generally speaking the Provincial Council would have regular (usually quarterly) meetings with *Turaga ni Koros* (village headmen), *Mata ni Tikinas* (district representatives), NGOs, and other stakeholders. As the provincial office responsible for iTaukei matters, the Provincial Council would then coordinate directly with the Provincial Administrator, who engages relevant government departments. Local communities, living in more dispersed areas and outside the nationally mandated *Bose va Koro* system for Indigenous Peoples, are served by the District Advisory Councillor (DAC) network, overseen by District Offices (DOs). DACs submit monthly reports to the DO and address concerns raised by the communities they represent, facilitating support for road maintenance, water access, and electricity installation requests.

**State of governance.** Consultations revealed a general awareness of laws and regulations governing natural resource management, including fisheries. This knowledge varied from a basic understanding to a more detailed grasp of both legislative and traditional restrictions, such as *tabus* (temporary bans) imposed by *qoliqoli* (fishing ground) owners. Despite this awareness, there was broad recognition that monitoring and enforcement are lacking. Participants shared examples of unintentional or deliberate violations, such as poaching and improper waste disposal in mangrove areas, often occurring with little to no legal consequence. There is a general appreciation of the importance of laws and regulations in preserving a healthy environment and sustaining fish stocks. However, some emphasize the reliance of many people on fishing for survival, particularly when alternative livelihood options are limited. There are also requirements for fishers who are not customary owners to seek permission from *qoliqoli* owners before applying for a fishing license. Obtaining permission from *qoliqoli* owners will often involve a goodwill payment from fishers. Such payments are unlegislated and the amounts can vary across districts and provinces - amounts conveyed by fishers (mostly Indo-Fijian) ranged from FJ\$300 to FJ\$3000.

**Indigenous Peoples (iTaukei) vernacular.** This summary report will use many iTaukei vernacular terms, with some of the more commonly used explained here. In Indigenous Peoples' villages, people are organized and identified in *vuvale* (family), *tokatoka* (extended family), *mataqali* (clan, usually a landowning unit), and *yavusa* (tribe) groupings. As legislated by the iTaukei Land Trust Act 1940, all iTaukei land is vested in the iTaukei Land Trust Board (TLTB), and administered by the Board for the benefit of the iTaukei. In line with its governing legislation, the TLTB is custodian of the Register of iTaukei Leases and charges, collects and disseminates lease fees on behalf of iTaukei landowners. *Qoliqoli* are inshore waters that iTaukei have customary fishing rights over, extending from the foreshore to just beyond the fringing reef. *Voivoi* is the pandanus plant, the leaves of which are used to weave mats made, sold and widely used for home decor and traditional ceremonies. Similarly, *kuta* is a reed used to weave mats that are unique to Vanua Levu, used for both home decor and ceremonial purposes. *Yaqona*, known as *kava* throughout the wider Pacific, is the piper methysticum plant of cultural significance, grown commercially in Fiji. The root of the plant is used to produce a drink consumed in social gatherings and cultural ceremonies.

## 4. Provincial Analysis

The following sections examine key aspects of the provinces across several dimensions. For each province: the **Context of the Project Area** explores land use patterns, highlights environmental challenges, and identifies the main factors influencing decisions on natural resource management; the **Conservation Stakeholders** section outlines various actors present in communities; the **Socio-Cultural Context** delves into population demographics, including ethnic, tribal, and cultural divisions, and identifies Indigenous Peoples, other communities, and vulnerable or marginalized groups, as well as forms of organized representation; the **Socio-Economic Context** outlines both medium- to large-scale commercial activities and small-scale or subsistence livelihoods within the area; the **Political and Legal Context** reviews the current state of governance, property rights and tenure regimes, and external factors influencing the region; finally, **Cross-Cutting Issues** address critical topics such as human rights, gender equality, children's rights, resource efficiency, pollution management, conflict sensitivity, and the effects of climate change. Together, these sections provide a comprehensive overview of the project area's dynamics and challenges.

# Macuata Province

## Context of the Project Area

**Land use.** The province of Macuata, with a population of 66,000 people, is home to 15,000 private households, comprising 6,000 urban and 9,000 rural (2017 Census) across its 12 districts. Unique features of Macuata Province include the floating island in Wainidrua and a unique cave habitat in Vorovoro.

**Environmental issues.** Several environmental issues were raised by key informants and focus group participants in Macuata Province. These include the use of pesticides and fertilizers as farmers in Indo-Fijian settlements around Waidamudamu and Vunimoli near Labasa respond to the challenge of lower soil yield. During the dry season, an Indo-Fijian District Advisory Councillor (DAC) from the area stated that water scarcity leads residents to rely heavily on rainwater storage, indicating an overall vulnerability to drought. Another Indo-Fijian DAC in the nearby settlement of Vuniuciuci also pointed out soil erosion as an issue, degrading land and affecting agricultural productivity.

A critical issue raised by both DACs is the mismanagement of waste. They pointed out that the absence of a formal waste collection system in their communities has led to the widespread practice of pit latrines, household landfills, and open burning of rubbish. They see this improper disposal as not only contaminating the soil and water but also posing serious health risks. They raised the practice of disposing of waste in rivers as being common. A range of Macuata informants and focus group participants, both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian, noted that waste management is still limited to urban areas in Labasa and many falling outside the scope of municipal services choose to either burn or bury their own rubbish in their homes. Flooding is seen as being more frequent in recent years and is attributed to a lack of dredging according to a retired male Indo-Fijian fisher from the Delailabasa locality.

iTaukei district representatives in Mali, Dreketi, Nadogo and Sasa raised the issues of disappearing marine and bird life, low fish catches and increased vulnerability to cyclones and flooding, bleached coral, warmer ocean temperatures, storm surges. Village focus groups in Nubu village (Nadogo district), Nakawaga village (Mali district), and Sasa village (Sasa district) also mentioned land degradation, pollution and declining fish stocks as priorities for potential benefit from the project. According to a female iTaukei informant in Nabiti village (Dreketi district), there have been plans to replant native trees to aid in land restoration, following on from awareness visits to the village by the Ministry of Forestry. Another female informant in Nakawaga village (Mali district) noted decreasing fish stocks and fish sizes. She added that pollution from the mainland, attributed to Labasa town, in the form of plastic, diapers, oil from ships and silt from logging is a major issue, and that they have even gutted dead turtles and found them full of rubbish. Pollution of the *qoliqoli* (customary fishing ground) area coming from the main river in Labasa was reiterated by a male iTaukei informant in the Mali Yaubula (conservation) Committee as a major concern. Fishers - both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian - raised how fishing opportunities are impacted by cyclone seasons due to rough seas and storm damage to reefs and coastal areas.

According to a Labasa Ministry of Education official, two schools (in Yaroi and Somosomo villages respectively), are currently under threat of inundation and relocation is being considered. Seawalls have been constructed by the former government in some inundation-vulnerable areas, but there are concerns about their strength and effectiveness. Four schools on Qamea Island in Taveuni are located in red zones and are at high risk of natural disasters. These schools were affected by a recent landslide, and children are currently housed in tents. A geotechnical report has confirmed that the location is

unsafe.

The Ministry of Education key informant further conveyed that the last major dredging of the Labasa River was in 2009, and since then, flooding has worsened, especially after tropical cyclone (TC) Yasa in 2020 and TC Ana in 2021. The informant also attributes exacerbated flooding in recent years to the construction of the Damodar City complex, as it blocks the flow of water, causing flood waters to back up and affect surrounding areas. According to the official, this led to the evacuation of the Commissioner's Office when it flooded during TC Yasa. The informant anticipates that 20 to 30 schools in the Labasa area could be affected by floods expected to worsen due to poorly-planned infrastructure development. She also mentioned that a Pacific Center in Hawaii, focused on disaster work, is helping to develop a comprehensive plan for Fiji's Northern Division, with a worst-case scenario projection for the next 25 years up to 2050. This plan predicts that several schools could be underwater by 2050, so measures are already being taken by provincial education officials to halt capital development in the most vulnerable areas across the division (Macuata, Bua and Cakaudrove provinces).

Focus group participants from the Community Centered Conservation non-government organization (C3 Fiji) in Labasa raised that littering and fuel spills are compounding the depletion of marine resources. They provided an example of community efforts to address declines in their resources; for example, Macuata's Qaranivai village (Dogotuki district), in which the community themselves have proposed solutions such as *tabus* (bans declared by *Qoliqoli* Committees) or no-take zones. Regarding natural resource use, the NGO focus group has encountered complaints of unsustainable fishing practices throughout the coastal areas in Macuata. Unsustainable fishing practices include net fishing with inappropriate nets and crossing river mouths. The NGO key informants link these unsustainable activities to significant damage to marine ecosystems. According to the informants, communities with established locally-managed marine areas (LMMAs) have raised concerns about these illegal fishing practices, with offenders often operating at night, drawing up their nets and rushing to the market before daybreak. In recent weeks, fishermen were caught fishing within LMMAs and faced consequences including the confiscation of their boats and nets. LMMA fish wardens have also been threatened while enforcing these regulations.

**Factors in natural resource management decisions.** Key informants and focus group participants shared many observations and experiences. Participants in iTaukei communities shared that while there are village (*Bose va Koro*), district (*Bose ni Tikina*) and provincial council (*Bose Vanua*) forums with some advice by NGOs and other external organizations, ultimately chiefs have the final say. District representatives from Dreketi, Nadogo and Mali pointed out that there are existing constraints in the process when people in villages and the ultimate decision makers are not listening to each other. In the Mali district, a male informant noted that submissions for collective decision are made at the village level (*Bose va Koro*) and if the consent of chiefs and the Tui Mali (district chief), then that path is taken. The informant further elaborated on constraints to decision-making processes by highlighting that all *qoliqoli* matters are administered by the *Qoliqoli* Cokovata Macuata Committee who work under the *Bose Vanua* at the provincial level, noting that Mali villagers are rarely invited to their meetings and are sometimes surprised by decisions made by the committee.

iTaukei women informants in Nabiti (Dreketi district) and Nakawaga (Mali district) villages affirmed that youth groups and women's groups feel heard at the *Bose va Koro* level, with allocated space for their contributions. One example shared from Nubu (Nadogo district) was a women's group raising the issue of improper waste disposal and working to resolve the issue. While still mindful of village politics in implementing initiatives, women informants reported confidence in ensuring that villagers do not just

listen to “one voice.” A female informant in Nakawaga village reported a decent level of influence enjoyed by women in yaubula matters in their village. As outlined by a male informant from Sasa village (Sasa district), youth are also represented in villages in both community structures such as the youth committee that reports to the *Bose va Koro*, and in church structures such as church youth groups that conduct community cleanups.

Focus group participants in a Labasa-based NGO conveyed that iTaukei face challenges not commonly experienced by Indo-Fijian communities, with Indo-Fijian communities more dispersed and tending to focus on their own families, lacking the communal system prevalent in iTaukei communities. An Indo-Fijian female DAC representative in the Vuniuciuci settlement near Labasa raised that key community decisions are still generally male-led, with collective decisions amongst Indo-Fijians made via DAC networks at the district level and in religious organization networks such as the Arya Maila Samaj. Furthermore, an Indo-Fijian female DAC representative overseeing the Waidamudamu and Vunimoli settlements outlined that DAC meetings happen quarterly and a Viber group is used to relay information between DACs and the DO. She conceded that the ability of DACs to influence better outcomes in their communities is limited as responses to their requests are often delayed, however, relatively timely responses from the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) are appreciated when water supply issues are raised. The DO convenes meetings of the DAC network twice a year, with additional meetings scheduled as needed at the request of government departments. An Indo-Fijian male retired fisher from Delailabasa locality conveyed that decision-making within Indo-Fijian communities primarily occurs through occasional informal neighborhood discussions, and that formal meetings or assemblies are not common. While he acknowledged the existence of the DACs, he relayed that not everyone utilizes their services and their role may be limited or not actively engaged within the community.

Traversing both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities, the school system in Macuata was raised by a Ministry of Education official as a valuable network for decision-making. As with schools across the country, schools in Macuata often serve as evacuation centers in natural disasters and their facilities and management are of broader societal concern. The informant described the network as centered around School Management Committees (SMCs), with every school having an SMC comprising community members. The SMCs are recognized as representing the official owners of the school. This arrangement exists for both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities. Within iTaukei communities, the SMCs have a strong connection to village traditional leadership structures via the *Turaga Ni Koro* (village headman) and the village education committee that reports to the *Bose va Koro* (government mandated village level meetings under the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944 - see Overview section). The School Manager, a voluntary role, is the primary point of contact within the SMC and is responsible for managing the maintenance of school facilities while the ministry oversees education. School Managers are invited to cluster meetings. While there is an open door policy enabling School Managers to see the Permanent Secretary of Education directly, many prefer to go through existing channels with Ministry of Education officials at the provincial level.

Members of the Labasa-based NGO working in iTaukei communities emphasized the long-term potential of environmental education programs in fostering a culture of conservation. One past project involved training young people as reef rangers to instill environmental values they could pass on to future generations. However, there were challenges in project implementation, including funding constraints and logistical difficulties. For instance, the reef rangers program faced setbacks during the COVID-19 pandemic due to school closures and the Ministry of Education's priority on completing the curriculum. Despite these challenges, the project successfully expanded its reach by targeting schools and engaging villagers directly. Another issue arose in a community where misunderstandings developed between

resource owners and the NGO, as community members compared the current project to a previous Ministry of Forestry initiative, which provided direct financial support to the community. To resolve the concerns, the NGO sought forgiveness from the community, explained the project's goals, and fostered open dialogue to build trust and understanding.

## Conservation Stakeholders

Conservation efforts in the province involve several key stakeholders. Community Centered Conservation (C3) Fiji and the Adventist Development Relief Agency (ADRA) Fiji have led projects focused on agriculture and livelihoods, with ADRA Fiji providing training on backyard gardening. Live and Learn Fiji has worked with iTaukei communities on carbon trading initiatives (though this work is incomplete), as well as raising awareness and implementing beekeeping projects—though some beehives were damaged by bad weather. World Bank-funded Fiji Government projects such as REDD+ concentrated on awareness campaigns, while Jobs for Nature 2.0 (JFN2) created jobs to support environmental conservation in rural areas. The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) worked with iTaukei communities to co-design and support the implementation of ecosystem-based management plans, raised awareness, and established protected areas, primarily in mangrove forests around Raviravi, Mulomulo, and Nabau Settlements.

Additional efforts include the Ministry for Women, Children and Social Protection's advocacy and awareness initiatives. The Ministry of Agriculture distributed seedlings to promote sustainable food production and ran farming programs, in which youths participated, particularly in *yaqona* (*kava*) commercial farming. The Ministry of Youths raised awareness about sustainable agriculture, while the Ministry of Fisheries educated communities on fishing licenses and ice plant usage. The Ministry of Forestry conducted awareness programs on the impacts of logging and the importance of reforestation.

## Socio-Cultural Context

**Population.** With a provincial population of 66,000, Macuata's iTaukei communities consist of registered villages and informal settlements. As the two most prominent ethnic groups in Fiji's population, consultations suggest there is generally social solidarity among iTaukei and Indo-Fijians in Macuata communities. Indo-Fijian communities are relatively more dispersed in their living arrangements and tend to focus on their nuclear families and households, lacking the communal system in which iTaukei communities live.

**Ethnic, cultural, and other divisions.** Consultations highlighted that iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities face distinct challenges relating to the manner in which they self-organize, their land tenure and the impact this has on their access to coastal and marine areas. iTaukei, as Indigenous Peoples, are the prominent land holders and retain sole customary use of their respective *qoliqolis*, with Indo-Fijians, as Local Communities, leasing land from iTaukei landowners to farm cash crops and requiring permission from iTaukei *qoliqoli* owners before they can apply for licenses to access those fishing grounds.

**Vulnerable or marginalized groups.** As raised by both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian informants, patriarchal mindsets persist, and gender-based violence, while being increasingly reported, remains something largely addressed privately within family units or communities. A key informant based in Labasa who is a member of the LGBTQI+ community and works in civil society stated that advocacy groups like House of Colors exist for the LGBTQI+ community but remain outside provincial and communal decision-making structures. There is a network of LGBTQI+ community members who reside in informal settlements in

the Labasa area, some of whom engage in sex work. They too are vulnerable to the increased levels of flooding affecting these settlements but are less likely to seek or receive assistance due to the stigma they face. Such LGBTQI+ groups meet informally to share concerns and mobilize for resource sharing, interacting with outsiders only via trusted intermediaries.

## Socio-Economic Context

**Main medium to large-scale commercial activities.** Recent developments in Macuata province encompass several significant projects. For medium to large scale commercial activities in Labasa, the Damodar City complex and Jaduram Plaza are under construction, and the historic Grand Eastern Hotel is being extended with a new jetty being built beside it. The New World complex is being developed in Wailevu. A new bypass and bridge project in Vitinavua and Nagai involved clearing mangroves to create space for the road and bridge. This development was halted after a month of operations by the Ministry of Waterways and Environment. Planned future developments include the University of the South Pacific campus in Tovata, a \$200 million tourism project across Vanua Levu, and a new water park and five-star hotel in Korovatu. According to a focus group comprising members of a Labasa-based NGO, has involved mangrove removal and beach bulldozing.

Overall, informants pointed out that out-migration is a significant issue in the province, with most youth leaving in search of better education and employment opportunities. Only a few migrate for healthcare reasons. Some individuals return to their villages when the cost of living in town becomes too high or upon retirement, reflecting the adaptability of these communities and their strong connection to their roots. Internal migration is common, with people moving from Bua to Macuata (concentrated in towns like Labasa) and from Vanua Levu to Viti Levu's urban centres.

**Main small-scale to subsistence activities.** Many coastal fishermen have shifted to farming, leading to deforestation as trees are cleared to create farmland, causing communities to relocate inland. Seasonal migration also occurs, particularly during the sugarcane farming season. Additionally, sea cucumber harvesting is subject to seasonal bans, which are lifted based on ministerial decisions. When the bans are lifted, people from Viti Levu migrate to Vanua Levu to harvest sea cucumbers for the beche-de-mer trade.

Fishing and agriculture comprise the bulk of small scale to subsistence activities for informants in both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities in Macuata. Livelihood pathways tend to broaden near urban areas and when access to fishing is less assured, necessitating reliance on other means of income earning, leaning more heavily on agriculture for instance.

An Indo-Fijian DAC covering Siberia, Batinikama and Namoli settlements conveyed that increased employment opportunities due to the new construction developments are helping stem the flow of outward migration of young people departing for Viti Levu or abroad. The area he oversees is inhabited by rice farmers, cane farmers, market vendors and people in formal employment in Labasa such as teachers. While there are some fishers, the community is mostly agricultural. Another Indo-Fijian DAC overseeing the Vuniuciuci settlement affirmed that there are mostly farmers in her community, including sugarcane, vegetable and tobacco farmers, as well as those farming in livestock (cows and goats) on a domestic scale. She conveyed that farming usually involves both men and women in households, with women also earning an income through selling food parcels comprising fish and root crops, often obtaining wholesale produce from the market and selling parcels if there is not enough produce from their own crops. Some Indo-Fijian women fish but it is predominantly men who fish while

women remain at home and engage in selling food parcels at the market and local workplaces. The DAC Indo-Fijian informant overseeing Waidamudamu and Vunimoli settlements observed a shift in income-generating activities within the four communities she supports. They have usually relied on subsistence agriculture and fishing, but there is a growing interest in rice farming driven by government support for seedlings, machinery, and resources. Additionally, tobacco farming is increasing in prominence as an alternative, though it requires a license. She concluded that fishing remains a minor source of income for only a few individuals in these communities.

iTaukei communities highlighted fishing and agriculture as their primary livelihood activities, often supplemented by village canteens, though these require further support to operate effectively. In Nadogo district, an informant explained that the Matanataki business model was established to breed and harvest beche-de-mer, but the breeding process was unsuccessful, leading to the project's collapse. He also noted the potential to negotiate better prices with retailers for goods sold by village fisherfolk. The representative from Mali district confirmed that they supply fresh fish directly to Labasa markets, with fisheries serving as a key livelihood for the community. Similarly, the Sasa district representative echoed the potential for village canteens and expressed uncertainty about the current status of the Matanataki beche-de-mer initiative. In Nabiti village (Dreketi district), a female informant shared that dive fishing is a primary livelihood for men, while women focus on selling crabs. Some members of the community also work in Labasa. Another female informant in Nubu village emphasized the range of livelihood activities in the area, including cane farming, fishing, beche-de-mer harvesting, diving, growing kava and tobacco, as well as weaving mats and kuta. A female informant from Nakawaga village (Mali district) reiterated the community's reliance on fishing, which serves as the main income source for building homes, village halls, and supporting subsistence. In Sasa village (Sasa district), a female informant described how women act as middlemen, purchasing fish to resell in Labasa, alongside selling beche-de-mer, crabs, and lobsters. However, she noted that this is not a full-time activity, as the women are content with the informal nature of these ventures.

A Ministry of Education informant highlighted the challenges related to fishing in Macuata, explaining that *qoliqolis* (traditional fishing grounds) are often inaccessible due to the high costs of obtaining consent from traditional owners. As a result, villages frequently travel to Bua for better fishing opportunities and to secure fishing licenses for *qoliqolis* in that province. She also mentioned that Bua residents often complain about fishers and poachers from other areas, reflecting tensions over fishing rights and resources. She further explained that coastal areas in Macuata are primarily used for fishing, while inland regions focus on agriculture, with dalo (taro) and *yaqona* (kava) as key crops. The local sugar mill operates seasonally, running for about six months each year, which brings a wave of seasonal migration as people come to harvest sugarcane. There is also some small-scale entrepreneurship linked to the sugar industry. However, large-scale entrepreneurship in the province is limited, with a few long standing generational business empires dominating the market, making it difficult for new ventures to break through.

## Political and Legal Context

**Tenure arrangements.** Of the 15,000 private households in Macuata, the 2017 Census records the most prominent type of land tenure is that of registered leases from the TLTB (8,000 households) and from the State (2,000 households), followed by those occupying without any legal arrangements in informal settlements amongst urban private households (400 households), and those occupying through traditional village tenure within village boundaries amongst rural private households (2,000 households).

**State of governance.** Contributions from both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian informants in Macuata indicate that communities are aware of rules and laws associated with fishing licenses, net size limits, restrictions on the use of poison during prawn fishing, no dumping of rubbish in the river, no overnight nets to be left in the river, no cutting of mangroves, seasonal prohibitions on harvesting of the fish such as groupers. There was a general lack of awareness on rules and laws regarding gravel extraction processes, cutting trees in buffer zones, and practicing agricultural activities near riverbank areas. However, communities - particularly iTaukei communities - are aware of laws imposed by the Ministry of Fisheries under the Fisheries Act which are directly related to *qoliqoli* and people's livelihoods. Besides formal rules and regulations, traditional *qoliqoli tabus* are implemented by the Vanua to prevent overfishing towards maintaining environmental sustainability. Fishing communities operate within designated *Qoliqoli Cokovata* (combined fishing ground areas governed collectively by provincial committee) areas. Still, there are gaps in understanding government rules and regulations among community members, and dissemination mechanisms and translation efforts are needed to improve awareness and to strengthen processes so that committee decisions better reflect village and settlement priorities.

Night diving, though controversial, is a daily practice for some mainland iTaukei communities. Since fishing licenses do not specify restrictions on day or night activities, this can lead to potential loopholes. Communities opposing night diving may take action, sometimes resulting in conflicts or legal proceedings. Unfortunately, *tabus* have been disregarded by outsiders, leading to a decline in their compliance among iTaukei people, who feel discouraged from upholding these customs. Although both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities are generally aware of fishing regulations, with numerous awareness campaigns conducted by government and NGOs, many believe the focus should shift towards educating the business operators often seen as the driving force behind overfishing and illegal practices. These business operators are suspected of sending people to exploit local waters, harvesting banned fish and fishing at night despite community efforts to protect their resources. Certain groups, such as commercial fishing businesses with fishing licenses and boats, may be adversely affected by the GSR project if stricter enforcement and sustainable practices are implemented, potentially reducing their profits in the short- to medium-term. Companies involved in illegal activities, like dumping waste or causing oil spills, could face penalties and operational setbacks. iTaukei respondents in Macuata expressed concern that these businesses, with their financial resources and influence, could resist efforts to regulate their practices, which might undermine the project's effectiveness and limit its potential benefits.

**Major factors outside the project that have an impact on it.** Fishers, particularly Indo-Fijians, face several challenges, starting with the high cost of good will payments for *qoliqoli* owner approval required for license applications. In Macuata, Indo-Fijian fishers reported being required to pay FJ\$1,000 annually for *qoliqoli* owner approval of fishing licenses, while in Bua, the cost is lower at FJ\$300. At one point, a DAC informant reported that approvals from *qoliqoli* owners were as high as FJ\$3,000. Additionally, Indo-Fijian fishers reported struggling with limited access to spare parts for boat engines and jetties where they can moor their boats. Obtaining grants, loans, or microfinance support to sustain their livelihoods or businesses is also difficult due to the slow processing times of these systems. The lack of navigation lights in Labasa further adds to the difficulties, creating safety hazards when navigating the river after dark and forcing fishers to rely on daylight, which limits their fishing hours. These challenges place extra pressure on fishers, who are already trying to operate within legal regulations.

## Cross-Cutting Issues

**Resource efficiency, pollution prevention and management of chemicals and waste, conflict sensitivity, climate change.** In terms of resource efficiency, many communities face challenges due to their remote locations and limited access to networks, transportation, and education. There are also road access issues. This can hinder development and contribute to social issues. Proper waste management services are needed especially in rural areas to prevent improper dumping of wastes and health hazards associated with poor waste disposal methods. If there are any issues, community members call the District Advisory Councillor (DAC), who visits and assesses requirements. The DACs issue letters of support if needed. For road and water concerns, the Fiji Roads Authority (FRA) and the WAF respond; however, concerns on electricity issues are still awaiting response from Energy Fiji Limited (EFL). Regarding climate change, in 2020, communities faced significant devastation caused by TC Yasa, which destroyed homes and flooded villages and settlements across the province. Communities also face issues of coastal inundation. Despite the lack of external assistance, communities have shown remarkable strength in rebuilding. Many iTaukei families in the villages chose to remain in their ancestral homes rather than relocate. This reflects a strong attachment to their 'yavu' (land) and a determination to persevere in the face of adversity. Environmental issues in the province include fuel spills, and marine pollution, which iTaukei communities see as primarily the responsibility of companies involved in dumping waste.

**Gender equality and women's rights.** Women's groups are active and there is a sense of fair participation in decision-making processes in the community. These gatherings occur at least once a month, allowing individuals to present and seek approval for projects they are involved in or planning. This is exemplified by the recent World Bank-funded Jobs for Nature 2.0 (JFN2) project implemented by the Ministry of Finance. With US\$48.9 million in World Bank funding, the project is aimed at generating income while mitigating climate change impacts, particularly in response to COVID-19 pandemic impacts. Implemented at provincial level by the Macuata Provincial Council and facilitated by the Conservation Officer, this demonstrates a bottom-up approach where community members, including women and youth, have a direct voice in shaping their local development and conservation efforts. Both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian female informants reported instances of women's views not being incorporated or being excluded from community development projects, which then are unsuccessful until women take on management roles, indicating a tendency for patriarchal mindsets in which men refuse or do not seek assistance from women. Despite this, iTaukei women possess invaluable traditional knowledge about their *qoliqoli* and the land surrounding their villages. Across all communities, women in the province can offer valuable insights to the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) and ensure successful implementation of land-based businesses to generate income. This would help to reduce pressure on marine resources. Development donors emphasize the importance of gender equality and inclusion in their initiatives, aiming to involve those who are vulnerable, including elderly, those with disabilities, and women in projects. However, informants conveyed that in iTaukei communities, some individuals may engage in discriminatory behavior towards people with disabilities, using derogatory language and disregarding their feelings.

**Children's rights.** Relating to children's rights, the Ministry of Education official has noted that government officials are cautious about the impact on communities, with efforts underway to address a report of a child left unsupervised after both parents undertook labor mobility program opportunities abroad. With government-led approaches in schools making efforts to be child-focused, the informant notes that iTaukei communities have reached out for support in building an enabling environment at the family level through workshops for parents and guardians. Instances of child labor as part of the

seasonal sugarcane harvesting have also abated after regulations were introduced and enforced. There are occasions of parents requesting if students can stay home to help their parents with farming before returning to school the following year, but this is discouraged by school officials and becoming less supported as a norm in iTaukei communal settings.

## Bua Province

### Context of the Project Area

**Land use.** The province of Bua, with a population of 15,500 people, is home to 3,200 private households, comprising 100 urban and 3,100 rural (2017 Census) across its 9 districts. There are many unique habitats and locations in the province that were shared by Bua informants and focus group participants such as Yadua Taba crested iguana sanctuary, the underwater island of Namotu, the cultivation of the kuta plant, the Mataniwai rock formation, and the Kilaka Forest Conservation Area. There are current and planned developments underway in the province, particularly related to the Nabouwalu Township. Large industries occurring in the province include bauxite mining and pine logging. A new terminal is being built along the Nabouwalu Jetty. A church and evacuation center are expected to be built and the women's hall will be extended. Moreover, Cogea Village in Wainunu is in the process of relocation. Much-needed improvements to communication networks are underway, with services being established within communities such as internet access and landlines.

**Environmental issues.** Village focus group participants and key informants revealed a range of environmental issues in Bua Province. iTaukei communities in Lekutu, Vuya, Bua and Dama districts raised concerns including the decline in health of the reef and fish stocks, oil pollution in the ocean attributed to a suspected fuel station leak in Nabouwalu, water sedimentation attributed to gravel extraction upstream, and reliance on a makeshift waste dump site attributed to the lack of a proper waste management system, an issue they believe may worsen with the upcoming Nabouwalu township development. Indo-Fijian fishers interviewed reported concern about the needless burning of forests (unrelated to agricultural use), and reaffirmed waste management concerns by highlighting waterway pollution attributed to improper waste disposal in rivers.

A female iTaukei informant from Namuavoivoi village (Lekutu district) highlighted the impacts of bush fires, flooding, and cyclones on their land, expressing hope that a project could help restore the ecosystem. In Nabouwalu village (Vuya district), another female iTaukei informant raised concerns about the presence of chemicals from pine logging affecting nearby mangroves close to the jetty. She also observed coral bleaching, attributing it to coastal developments, and expressed hope that once threats were addressed and marine biodiversity is restored, villagers would no longer need to spend entire days at sea. Oil spills were another issue she raised, citing a shop storing oil below sea level and noting that people in the area could taste benzene in fish caught along the coast.

In Bua village (Bua district), a female iTaukei informant shared that diversifying income sources could ease the pressure on their *qoliqoli*, as they currently rely heavily on fisheries for their livelihood. A male informant from the same village noted that after long dry spells, heavy rains often cause flooding, washing soil into the ocean. He mentioned the need for river dredging and seawall construction around certain beach areas, although no specific locations were provided.

In Namuavoivoi village (Lekutu district), a male informant raised concerns about erosion in forest areas

and along streams, warning that this erosion is likely to worsen in the coming years, especially after the loss of some fishing spots. Additionally, a women's focus group in Bua village expressed frustration over the high cost of water and the damage to soil and plants caused by burning land during the dry season. They also voiced concerns about unsustainable logging practices by the company Fiji Pine.

Members of a women's group in Namuavoivoi village (Lekutu district) discussed the challenges posed by droughts and landslides, which make transporting produce to the market difficult, as the vegetables often wilt or are damaged, reducing their profitability. They called for better decision-making in the village to secure licenses for selling produce and leasing land for logging.

In Nabouwalu village, a focus group of iTaukei men highlighted the need for awareness and training in surrounding communities, including Vuya, Navave, and Wairiki villages, to address qoliqoli issues related to recognition of and respect for fishing ground boundaries. Meanwhile, in Driti (Dama district), a village that had been relocated from Batiri, another focus group expressed concern about the risk of their rich cultural history and unique biodiversity being exposed to extractive and exploitative research. Previous studies have found insects unique to their mountains, *tagimoucia* flowers and waterfalls. They shared that, to date, only one research project had been reported back to them, with no follow-up reports from previous initiatives.

A female Indo-Fijian DAC informant from the Namau settlement identified inadequate drainage as the primary environmental challenge, leading to seawater inundation and negative impacts agricultural productivity. She relayed that the community is undergoing significant development with the construction of a bus terminal and town expansion in Nabouwalu. With the area's biodiversity demonstrated by the unique fish species present near the nearby Nabouwalu jetty, she conveyed a pressing need for a robust seawall to protect against coastal erosion before further development.

**Factors in natural resource management decisions.** As in other provinces, the *Bose Vanua* serves as the highest decision-making body for iTaukei communities, guided by the *Bose va Koro* (i.e. traditional village meetings). In particular, Yaubula (Environment) Committees coordinate conservation and natural resource management efforts. iTaukei informants emphasized that the *Bose va Koro* is the primary entry point where village committees address issues related to conservation, education, development, health, finance, crime, women, and youth. A roundtable of Bua Provincial Council stakeholders shared that they meet quarterly with NGOs and stakeholders, as well as with *Turaga ni Koros* (village headman) and *Mata ni Tikinas* (district representatives) for the purpose of coordinating activities in the province.

In Driti village (Dama district), committees exist for water, health, development, education, church matters, youth, and women. Each committee has the opportunity to present at the *Bose va Koro*, while traditional leaders enforce village laws, particularly around environmental stewardship. Focus group participants from Bua village (Bua district) noted that chiefs from the village's three clans meet with their respective *mataqali* (clans) to discuss issues before presenting them to the *Bose Vanua* at the provincial level. The *Bose Vanua* then communicates its decisions back to the *Bose va Koro* in each village. In Bua village, there is general consensus that the committees operate actively, with transparent governance processes. For instance, the health committee manages waste, the agriculture and youth committees run active programs, and a child protection committee ensures children are indoors by 5 p.m. daily. The women's committee has an upcoming project with the JFN2 initiative, supported by the Fiji Government.

While group discussions were generally positive, a female informant from Bua village cautioned that although women have representation through the women's committee, their voices are often not heard. She noted that women sometimes need to be especially vocal, risking unpopularity, to raise concerns. Despite this, she acknowledged that leadership within the *Bose va Koro* is generally supportive of suggestions from both the Yaubula and women's committees, though others in the community frequently resist these decisions. A male iTaukei informant, also from Bua village, added that ultimate authority over *qoliqoli* (fishing ground) matters rests with the Tui Bua (the provincial chief) and the *Bose Vanua*. Male iTaukei focus group participants in Bua village also confirmed that all new projects are first raised with the Tui Bua before he calls the *Bose Vanua* and later the *Bose va Koro* to deliberate. Once decisions are made at the *Bose Vanua*, they are conveyed to villages through the *Bose va Koro*, which in Bua village is also led by the Tui Bua. Implementation of directives then becomes the responsibility of the relevant village committees.

All conservation projects are delegated to the village yaubula committee and sometimes involve women and youth committees. Participants in the Bua Provincial Council roundtable highlighted that villages play a crucial role in providing baseline data for development projects, conducting fisheries assessments, advising against pollution and environmental risks, and offering coastal care training. At the district level, the national iTaukei women's organization, Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei (SSVM), works with *Mata ni Tikinas* (district representatives) to facilitate social welfare requests and liaise with villages on various initiatives.

decision-making on natural resources and management takes place in distinct ways for Indo-Fijians, with a male Indo-Fijian subsistence fisher in Bua village pointing out he had never been consulted on issues relating to conservation before. While the informant is involved in community groups such as the Ramayan Mandali and in the local school committee, he reported that his role as a tenant farmer on freehold land has limited his direct involvement in decision-making. He noted that decision-making within Indo-Fijian communities is often context-specific and less formalized than that of the iTaukei system. As a result of these differences in self-organization between iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities, he suggested that DACs, Justices of the Peace (JPs) and religious organizations can be potential starting points for engagement with Indo-Fijian stakeholders. That said, he emphasized the importance of adherence to iTaukei traditional decision-making structures alongside the need to consult with Indo-Fijian fishers, who are also essential to the project's success. A female Indo-Fijian DAC informant, one of four female DACs in the total of 11 across the province, stated that she reports monthly to the Provincial Office and liaises with a Viber chat group where all DACs share concerns and resources. Her role involves meeting and engaging with community members, taking up their issues to provincial officials, which then goes to the Northern Division Commissioner's Office and then to respective government ministries.

## Conservation Stakeholders

Stakeholders involved in conservation projects across the province include several key organizations. WCS has been present for two decades, mentioned in the Bua Provincial Office roundtable that they have worked at some stage in all 9 districts of the province. The provincial roundtable overviewed various stakeholders such as Live and Learn Fiji (present in Kavula village, Lekutu district), ADRA Fiji (working in 6 districts, including Wainunu district), the Ministry of Fisheries (particularly in Kubulau and Lekutu districts), WIFN-Fiji (present in all 9 districts), SEEP (working in Wainunu district for two years), the Red Cross (undertaking disaster risk reduction across all 9 districts for a decade), Nature Fiji - Mareqeti Viti (NFMV) working in the province for a year, and the Australian Government's

Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Blue Prosperity Fiji, Save the Children and the FLMMA network present in various ways.

Starting in the early 2000s, WCS has supported ecosystem-based management (EBM) including crab farms in Bua village (Bua district), yaubula management plans in Nabouwalu village (Vuya district) since 2012, undertaken awareness training, water projects, community fencing, seedling distribution and a WISH Project freshwater survey in Driti village (Dama district), conducted awareness projects with the Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS) in Bua village (Bua district), and awareness, management planning, 3D modelling, protected areas along mangrove forests in Raviravi, Namulomulo and Namau coastal localities and settlements in the Vuya district. As a result, all nine districts in Bua Province have EBM plans, and there is an overarching Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Plan for Bua Province. While the provincial plan has been presented to the National ICM Committee on multiple occasions, the Provincial council and communities have yet to receive national endorsement and recognition for their efforts. This is because the National ICM Committee and the National Environment Council have rarely met over the last 5 years.

ADRA Fiji was mentioned by iTaukei women's focus groups in Bua and Vuya districts as providing post-cyclone relief after TC Yasa, and providing training for backyard gardens. They also credited Live and Learn Fiji with distributing seedlings post-Yasa. An iTaukei women's focus group in Driti village (Dama district) mentioned Live and Learn Fiji had visited to undertake awareness on carbon trading which was intended to lead up to a project that remains unfinished, and a beekeeping initiative which was unsuccessful due to incompatibility with windy weather conditions in the area.

Generally speaking, informants mentioned that government departments or ministries would tend to do awareness initiatives, with relatively little implementation. A focus group in Bua village (Bua district) mentioned the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change undertaking waste management awareness, the Ministry of Finance implementing the JFN2 project funded by the World Bank and facilitated through Provincial Conservation Officers, the Ministries of Fisheries and Forestry raising awareness of fishing licenses, and the Ministry of Agriculture has distributed seedlings. The Ministry of Agriculture has distributed seedlings to promote sustainable food production and implemented farming programs, which saw strong participation from youths, including involvement in *yaqona* (*kava*) commercial farming. The Ministry of Youths has also conducted awareness sessions on sustainable agriculture. The Ministry of Fisheries provided information on fishing licenses and the use of ice plants, while the Ministry of Forestry raised awareness about the impacts of logging and the importance of reforestation.

In 2010, Bua villagers established a marine protected area (MPA) and a management plan, furthering their conservation efforts. This was revised as part of a planning process to develop an EBM plan for the whole of Bua District, which was launched in 2019.<sup>13</sup> The revised plan has a network of *tabu* areas, and management strategies to address threats to land and sea. In 2017, the village hosted the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA) annual general meeting.

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<sup>13</sup>Wildlife Conservation Society (2019) Bua District Ecosystem-Based Management Plan: 2019–2023. Wildlife Conservation Society, Suva, Fiji

## Socio-Cultural Context

**Population.** Bua has a population of 15,500, with a majority rural population of 15,400 rural private households (2017 Census). Besides registered villages in which iTaukei reside, there are also settlements in which both Indo-Fijian and iTaukei live. iTaukei villages visited for consultations (Nabouwalu, Bua, Driti and Namuavoivoi) exhibited forms of organized representation aligned to the legally mandated structures under the *Bose Vanua* and Provincial Council. Indo-Fijians lived either on leased land, as a tenant on freehold land, or in iTaukei communities with permission of landowners. As required by law, all informants were aware of the need for permission from *qoliqoli* owners in order to obtain a fishing license.

**Ethnic, cultural, and other divisions.** In terms of existing conflicts and tensions, the women's group shared an example of how government support can often be at odds with their priorities, causing frustration. Ministry of Health officials had visited the village in the wake of a dengue outbreak, giving a directive to remove pandanus plants near their homes in an effort to reduce mosquito breeding grounds and prevent the transmission of dengue. This action negatively impacted their livelihoods, as the pandanus leaves are vital for weaving mats to sell, and no alternative or replanting plan was provided.

Another example of existing tensions came from a male iTaukei informant, a Lekutu district representative and member of the farmers' cluster, echoed a similar understanding of the laws related to fisheries, forestry, and community development. However, he expressed concern that when compliance issues are addressed in meetings or during training sessions, the focus is often on marine issues, leaving farmers feeling overlooked.

**Vulnerable or marginalized groups.** Women of both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities conveyed the various ways they valued participation in community decision-making. When the subject of gender-based violence was raised, it was widely deemed to be something that was sometimes reported to police but largely dealt with privately within households or communities. For iTaukei women informants and focus group participants, this was through membership in village committees or through the SSVM and even as a *Marama ni Vanua* (female chief). They were also forthcoming about existing constraints in a male-dominated society, in which some felt they had to advocate harder for themselves to be heard, and while there was general satisfaction at the level of inclusion, they attributed the failure of certain village livelihood projects to the exclusion of women from these efforts. Also, if at times high-level support for women's leadership was present, members of the broader community would defy those decisions. Furthermore, while there is an advocacy group for LGBTQI+ in Macuata Province, there is no such representation in Bua and this suggests that these marginalized communities have fewer avenues for inclusion.

A female Indo-Fijian informant, serving as a DAC in Bua, stated she is one of four females amongst 11 DACs across the province, responsible for a total of 150 people in 34 households. While she herself is a wife, mother and business owner, she shared that it was hard to exercise her leadership role as a woman with men being uncomfortable with women in leadership and the general perception that women are less capable than men.

Access to land was mentioned by Indo-Fijian informants as a source of precarity in their lives, as the lack of development in the province does not offer them many alternative livelihood opportunities. Hence, young people who lack employment opportunities migrate outwards and those with access to leased land are confined to their conditions of their leases, making them more reliant on fishing if their land has limited farming potential. Indo-Fijian informants also raised that lease renewal or obtaining a lease is a

challenge, as iTaukei communities are reluctant to lease their land for development. As such, the informant affirmed that further development of the nearby Nabouwalu township would provide the most secure pathway to improved livelihoods, as fishing has become challenging and expanding agricultural production is not an option with what they perceive as a widespread reluctance from *mataqalis* (landowning units) to lease their land.

## Socio-Economic Context

**Main medium to large-scale commercial activities.** Consultations across Bua province revealed a range of economic activity. Medium- to large-scale enterprises include bauxite mining and logging of pine plantations, with mainly agriculture and fishing making up the remainder. Agriculture includes rice, *yaqona*, livestock (cattle, goats, chickens, ducks and sheep) and market vegetables, along with a farming equipment enterprise. Small to subsistence enterprises include fishing, crabbing, prawn harvesting, making and selling mats (including kuta freshwater reed) mats unique to Vanua Levu), running village canteens, and selling food parcels.

Young people, without further education or employment opportunities due to the lack of development in the province, face limited livelihood pathways. Perspectives on migration were mixed, with some informants outlining seasonal migration due to the cane harvesting season. Claims of outward migration from Bua Province were contested by a Labasa-based Ministry of Education informant who stated that while Macuata's population is decreasing due to migration mostly to Suva on Viti Levu, the populations of Bua and Cakaudrove increased during COVID-19. Due to the trend of increasing populations in Bua and Cakaudrove, she conveyed that recommendations have been made to expand five schools across both provinces to junior secondary levels.

**Main small-scale to subsistence activities.** Relating to iTaukei communities, Bua Provincial Council roundtable participants noted that with fishing a lucrative enterprise for fish resellers (generally referred to as 'middlemen' but can also include women), commercial fishers and poachers, the project may be perceived negatively by them if it presents the possibility of economically empowered fishers and better enforced regulations. They also expressed concern that children and marginalized people may be affected in places where the sea provides the main source of income. A women's representative in the group also conveyed that while the SSVN has engaged in chicken farms and relatively small projects, they have ambitions for bigger projects that can help them build a provincial headquarters of their own.

iTaukei communities shared their perspectives on livelihoods and challenges at the village and district levels. In Driti village (Dama district), focus group participants stressed the importance of ensuring that livelihood projects are contextually appropriate. They cited an example of a bee-keeping project that failed because the hives couldn't withstand Driti's weather conditions. In Namuavoivoi (Lekutu district), informants highlighted *yaqona* (*kava*) farming, goat and cattle farming, selling mats, prawns, and coconuts, as well as running village canteens as small-scale or subsistence enterprises.

A female informant from Nabouwalu (Vuya district) listed fish, crabs, and other marine resources as key income sources, with some community members working as market vendors selling seafood or vegetables. She also pointed out the need for investing in existing businesses and expanding building properties due to the increasing need for accommodation as more people move into Nabouwalu. A male elder from the same village added that some villagers are involved in food and produce vending at the Nabouwalu market, working in government offices, operating private taxis, selling *yaqona*, or owning family-run boats. While a few receive remittances from relatives abroad, most rely on the ocean

for daily sustenance. He also expressed great interest in tourism that protects the environment such as volunteer tourism, research tourism and nature-based tourism, expressing his desire to see young people and women be trained and thrive in such enterprises. The men's focus group in Nabouwalu expressed interest in learning business skills, noting that their chief is open to new ideas, which gives them confidence in exploring new ventures.

In Bua village (Bua district), informants discussed the sale of handicrafts, cattle ranching, and pig farming for both customary and commercial purposes. Three clans in the village have their own tractors for farming, though this remains a male-dominated activity. Women from the focus group in Bua village shared their frustration over a recent Ministry of Health visit. Health officials had ordered the removal of pandanus plants, essential for mat weaving, due to concerns about dengue-carrying mosquitoes. Without any replanting or alternative plans, the women now have to travel further inland to source pandanus, a journey some are unable to make. Besides weaving mats, the women listed *yaqona*, prawns, pine, and market produce (vegetables and seasonal fruit) as key income sources. They emphasized the need for diversified livelihoods given the rising cost of living and reduced soil fertility due to burning practices. They also expressed concerns over a declining prawn population and polluted rivers, which they attributed to the logging industry.

The Bua village women were cautious about the potential for further restrictions under new projects, particularly if their current challenges are not addressed. They were also wary of past failed attempts to establish cooperatives and SMEs (small and medium enterprises). The men's focus group noted that previous livelihood and conservation activities in Bua village included crab cages, mangrove nurseries and replanting, fruit tree nurseries, and sandalwood cultivation.

Indo-Fijian informants in Bua identified rice farming and fishing as the main livelihood activities, complemented by livestock farming (mainly cattle, goats, and sheep) and subsistence agriculture. A male Indo-Fijian rice farmer and subsistence fisher living on freehold land in Bua village emphasized the community's high level of self-reliance due to the limited formal job market. Many families cultivate rice and raise livestock to support their livelihoods. He also mentioned that many young people, including his own children, leave the area in search of better opportunities.

A female Indo-Fijian business owner from Namau settlement, near Nabouwalu, highlighted fishing as the predominant livelihood in the area, with the wives of Indo-Fijian fishermen preparing and selling fish food parcels in Namulomulo. She also noted that some residents work in local government offices, while others sell chicken eggs and poultry, particularly chickens and ducks. *Yaqona (kava)* pounding and selling from home is another common income source, though farming *yaqona* is less common. Instead, people often buy, process, and sell the powdered product. She also mentioned that two shops in the area are owned and operated by Indo-Fijians.

A male Indo-Fijian fisher informant was accompanied by his wife while being interviewed, who stayed home to look after the household and sold fish parcels. That said, a male Indo-Fijian subsistence fisher said that elder women have an important role to play in homes and businesses, and that young women being exposed to more education are better prepared to find work or start their own businesses. It was apparent across key informant interviews with both iTaukei and Indo-Fijians that fishing beyond coastal areas is a predominantly male occupation but that women play important roles in households and community development.

## Political and Legal Context

**Tenure arrangements.** There are 3,200 private households in Bua, with the 2017 Census recording the most prominent type of land tenure is that of occupancy through traditional tenure within village boundaries (1,600 households), followed by those with traditional ownership through *tokatoka*, *mataqali* or *yavusa* (700 households) and those occupying freehold land (500 households). Some 300 households have registered leases from the TLTB. The province is majority rural, with 3,100 of its private households being rural.

**State of governance.** Bua Provincial Council focus group participants reported a strong awareness of laws and regulations regarding land and sea access, including knowledge of traditional *tabus* and marine protected areas (MPAs)<sup>14</sup>. This understanding, combined with their Business Plan and Yearly Planner, forms the basis of the advice they provide to communities through the village-to-district-to-provincial decision-making structure mandated by the iTaukei Affairs Act 1944.

The Ministry of Health supports these efforts through village health inspector visits, promoting cleanliness, sanitation, and pollution reduction. For issues raised by women, feedback flows from the village and district levels to the Roko ni Marama (women's administrator), who relays concerns to the Roko Tui (traditional provincial administrator) in the Provincial Council. At the district level, the Soqosoqo Vakamarama iTaukei (SSVM) works with the *Mata ni Tikina* (district representative) to facilitate initiatives and provide social welfare support in villages.

The Provincial Council group highlighted their regular quarterly meetings with village headmen (*Turaga ni Koros*), *Mata ni Tikinas*, NGOs, and other stakeholders. As the provincial office responsible for iTaukei matters, they coordinate directly with the Provincial Administrator, who engages relevant government departments. The Council stressed the importance of ongoing consultation at every level and welcomed involvement in site selection processes. They played a key role in earlier discussions regarding WWF Pacific's village consultations, advising against Nawailevu village due to conflicts among three *mataqali* (landowning units) over bauxite mining. They pointed out that previous development efforts in Nawailevu had failed due to governance issues resulting from these disputes, recommending that village governance be considered as a criterion for site selection. Their advice was accepted, and an alternative village suggested by the Provincial Council was added to the consultation list.

The Provincial Council emphasized the need to engage with government agencies, provincial and district representatives, and key figures at the village level, including *yaubula* committees, *qoliqoli* owners, elders, and church leaders. While overall awareness was deemed strong, they called for more training on enforcement and greater understanding of why fishing, forestry and environmental laws are necessary.

A female iTaukei elder from Namuavoivoi village (Lekutu district) expressed that while there is widespread awareness of laws governing forests and fishing, the lack of consistent monitoring and enforcement remains a significant issue. Despite past conservation efforts by government ministries and NGOs, she noted that although the community knows the laws, they continue to break them because penalties are either too lenient or not enforced at all. She also cautioned that while business development is important, it should not come at the expense of existing relationships within the village.

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<sup>14</sup>In Fiji, marine protected areas (MPAs) and *tabu* areas are sometimes used interchangeably. Both refer to areas that have been set aside as *tabus* through traditional governance mechanisms.

The Namuavoivoi village women's group demonstrated knowledge of regulations regarding the use of duva (traditional poison) for catching freshwater prawns, *tabus* on turtles and fish, and restrictions on cutting trees along riverbanks, as well as the rules against burning and dumping rubbish. However, they agreed that compliance is the core issue. While ultimate decisions rest with the chiefs, the women felt they were well represented and heard in village meetings (*Bose va Koro*). They praised the active collaboration between women, youth, and health committees in the village.

A male elder from Nabouwalu village (Vuya district) noted that while the Fisheries Act is well known in coastal villages like his, it is not fully followed, especially regarding Marine Protected Areas (MPAs), poaching, and illegal fishing. He highlighted persistent illegal activities, such as fishing without a license, outsiders fishing in the Raviravi *qoliqoli* without permits, and unregulated gas diving for *bêche-de-mer* during non-permitted seasons. Directives from chiefs to protect MPAs are often ignored, and despite the ban on burning under the Forestry Act, there have been no convictions for those responsible for burning large sections of grassland and forest. He acknowledged the introduction of new legislation, including the Environment Management Act, Mining Act, and Climate Change Act, which have raised standards for natural resource management and conservation. The elder emphasized that while chiefs are there to guide decision-making, they should not dictate. He also stressed the importance of not overlooking settlements, including those of Indo-Fijian residents, who share the *qoliqoli* and are part of the village administration.

In a focus group with the Nabouwalu village women's group, participants affirmed the value of MPAs, noting that after *tabus* (temporary bans) were imposed following the death of a prominent individual, fish populations would significantly increase. They also mentioned *tabus* on coastal areas, including the mangroves from Namulomulo to Raviravi, where access is restricted except for significant events. The women shared that older members of the community had not seen turtles in the water for some time, but more recently, turtles have been sighted during fishing trips. While they have a space to speak in village meetings, they felt they had to push harder to be heard, citing a recent case where they raised concerns about youth drug use and requested more police action. Male leaders advised them to report drug use directly to the police, but the women were hesitant due to fears of retaliation in the small community.

A men's focus group from Bua village pointed out that while laws and regulations are discussed in the *Bose va Koro* (village meetings), not all villagers attend due to their being spread across various settlements. This limits their awareness of regulations, especially those concerning fisheries. The men said they rely on chiefs and elders for information and doubted whether younger people knew much beyond what was discussed in meetings. Tension also exists with nearby Naevuevu villagers who are closer to the MPA and have been reported for poaching. Another informant confirmed the need for neighboring villages and districts like Nabouwalu and Dama to respect each other's boundaries. The men's group explained that decisions on village matters are made in the *Bose va Koro* and delegated to relevant committees. *Qoliqoli* matters are handled by the *Bose Vanua* (chiefs' council), headed by the *Buli Raviravi* (a paid official in charge of a district), who then directs the *Bose va Koro* on implementation. Currently, the village's yaubula (environment) committee is working with the WCS to implement their EBM plan.

In Bua village (Bua district), a women's focus group demonstrated a strong awareness of *tabus* and MPAs, respecting traditional conservation practices. They mentioned a designated coastal zone where net fishing is prohibited for all three clans (in the villages of Daloma, Tiliva, and Bua), and bans on

slashing, burning, waste disposal, and undersized fishing. Chiefs from each clan call their own *mataqali* (clan and landowning unit) meetings, after which issues are taken to the *Bose Vanua* for consensus. Decisions are then conveyed back to the *Bose va Koro*. The women reported functional committees for health, agriculture, youth, child protection, and women's issues, all operating with clear governance processes.

A men's focus group in Bua village explained that the Tui Bua (provincial chief) convenes meetings with the three clans, ensuring that all new projects are first presented to him before being discussed at the *Bose Vanua*. Conservation projects are managed by the village's yaubula team, with some involvement from the women's and youth committees. A female informant confirmed that the village had undergone several rounds of training on fisheries laws and noted the regular presence of the Fisheries Officer at district meetings. However, she expressed concern over enforcement, stating that despite awareness of *qoliqoli* boundaries, both villagers and outsiders often fail to respect them. If well enforced, she hoped the project could boost income by adding value to raw materials, reducing resource extraction.

A male informant remarked that although the village had long practiced conservation, it had not progressed much in terms of development, and youth and women remained minimally involved in these programs.

In Driti village, focus group participants expressed a strong understanding of freshwater regulations, including restrictions on using poison for fishing, the need for licenses to extract gravel, and buffer zones for logging near rivers. Although not a coastal village, they are aware of restrictions on certain fish species, catch sizes, and net sizes. They viewed freshwater regulations as well enforced in their area, including prohibitions on dumping rubbish in rivers. The villagers are also conscious of how their actions impact downstream neighbors, refraining from logging or gravel extraction in the river.

With active committees for water, health, development, education, church, youth, and women, they feel generally included in the *Bose va Koro*. There are no major developments like logging, and they continue to use traditional farming methods that prioritize forest ecosystems and limit the clearing of new land for farming. The village, known for its unique biodiversity, maintains cultural traditions such as composing chants and performing mekes (traditional iTaukei dances).

An Indo-Fijian farmer from Bua village shared his awareness of general regulations, including the need for fishing licenses, boat master certification, and observing bans during fish breeding seasons. He mentioned that a gratuity payment to *qoliqoli* owners is usually required before submitting license applications, though he did not specify the amount. He was familiar with *tabus*, which he said typically last three months and are communicated either directly by the mataqali (clan) or through the placement of flags in the restricted area. He also noted that iTaukei and Indo-Fijians coexist harmoniously in his area, with little racial tension, emphasizing that their homes are scattered throughout the village rather than clustered by ethnicity.

A female Indo-Fijian informant from the Namau settlement had only a general understanding of laws and regulations but highlighted land tenure and ownership as a significant concern. She described the dual land ownership system, where iTaukei live on customary land and Indo-Fijians on freehold or leased land. Most Indo-Fijian families hold residential leases, with only a few (she knew of only two in her area) holding agricultural leases. This creates challenges in terms of land use options and limits their ability to engage in farming to reduce dependence on fishing. She pointed out that iTaukei communities have different perspectives on land use and development compared to Indo-Fijians, with iTaukei placing a

high value on culture and using more time-consuming processes for land access. Declining rice and vegetable farming, particularly among younger generations, has led to land abandonment and reduced agricultural output. Seawater inundation on low-lying farmland and poor drainage are also significant challenges in her community. She expressed dissatisfaction with the Ministry of Waterways, which charged her \$240 for 12 hours of work to address the drainage concerns, leaving many farmers to plant only during the dry season to avoid waterlogging. Additionally, she noted that many farmers lack skills in modern agricultural techniques and machinery, which limits their productivity and adaptability to changing conditions.

**Major factors outside the project that have an impact on it.** The same Indo-Fijian Namau informant also confirmed that domestic violence is a prevalent issue, though most cases are resolved informally within households and rarely reported to social welfare or police. Marijuana is the primary drug of concern in the community, but she was less familiar with its impacts. She concluded that while overt conflicts are minimal, underlying tensions related to land tenure could lead to discord among residents if not addressed.

## Cross-Cutting Issues

**Gender equality and women's rights.** The inclusion of women and youth committees in village meetings and the existence of active committees is encouraging in terms of human rights. However, there was no mention of disability inclusion or LGBTQI+ community members from any informants in Bua, suggesting these groups lack prominence or visibility within the communities. On a positive note, stakeholders consistently emphasized the importance of maintaining a sustained consultation process throughout the project, with a focus on inclusivity.

Regarding gender equality and women's rights, it was clear from the consultations that women possess valuable knowledge, especially in traditional natural resource management. Many women feel empowered to assume leadership roles, including leading village committees and representing Indo-Fijian women in District Advisory Councils (DACs). Some even hold significant customary roles, with one example of a woman serving as chief. Despite having the space to speak in village meetings, iTaukei women reported needing to push harder to be heard. They cited a recent instance where their concerns about youth drug use were dismissed by male elders, who advised them to take the issue to the police rather than taking proactive action themselves.

A female Indo-Fijian informant confirmed that domestic violence remains prevalent, though most cases are resolved informally within households and rarely reported to social welfare or the police. This suggests a reluctance to openly discuss domestic violence and indicates that formal reporting lags behind actual occurrences.

**Children's rights.** Child protection concerns were raised by a women's group, which saw potential for solar power to support children's education. In Nabouwalu, a village child protection committee ensures children are indoors by 5 p.m., demonstrating that child welfare is prioritized in some communities. However, this also reflects that childcare is still predominantly viewed as a women's responsibility, rather than a shared obligation among parents and guardians.

**Resource efficiency, pollution prevention and management of chemicals and waste, conflict sensitivity, climate change.** Resource efficiency is hindered by land tenure issues. A female Indo-Fijian informant identified land tenure as a significant challenge, pointing to the dual land ownership system in

which iTaukei live on customary land and Indo-Fijians on freehold or leased land. Most Indo-Fijian families hold residential leases, and only a few hold agricultural leases, which limits their ability to engage in farming and increases their reliance on fishing. She noted that iTaukei communities approach land use and development differently, valuing cultural practices that often involve time-consuming processes for land access. The decline in rice and vegetable farming, especially among younger generations, has led to land abandonment and reduced agricultural output.

Pollution concerns were raised by villagers in Namuavoivoi, who reported that oil spills from pine logging operations have polluted the river. They cited an example of a shop storing oil below sea level and noted that fish caught in the area had a benzine taste, raising health and environmental concerns.

While overt conflicts are minimal, underlying tensions related to land tenure persist and could escalate if not addressed, both within iTaukei communities and between iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities. Men from Bua village mentioned relying on chiefs and elders for information, expressing doubts about younger people's awareness of issues beyond what is discussed in meetings. Conflict sensitivities also emerged in consultations, particularly regarding access to land and resources. Tensions were reported between nearby villages, with Naevuevu villagers closer to the marine protected area (MPA) being accused of poaching. One informant stressed the need for neighboring villages and districts, such as Nabouwalu and Dama, to respect each other's boundaries.

Seawater inundation on low-lying farmland and poor drainage are also significant challenges, with current government efforts to address drainage concerns proving insufficient. As a result, many farmers now plant only during the dry season to avoid waterlogging. Additionally, many farmers lack training in modern agricultural techniques and access to machinery, which limits their productivity and adaptability to changing environmental conditions.

## Ba Province

### Context of the Project Area

**Land use.** Ba Province, with a population of 250,000 people, is home to 56,000 private households, comprising 38 urban and 19,000 rural (2017 Census) across its 21 districts. New and significant developments in the province shared by informants and focus group participants include infrastructural developments, oil depots and hotels. There is a new oil refinery being planned to set up to process raw oil. A jetty has been recently built in the Navau area. Roads are maintained by the Government to support the sugarcane industry. Internal roads such as in the Tavarau area are usually built by community members with the support and grants received by the Government.

**Environmental issues.** Environmental issues in Ba were framed by Ba Provincial Council informants against the backdrop of an ongoing Sustainable Land Management Program, and as being largely focused on the tourism industry. They added that while waste management is largely covered by trucks picking up rubbish from most villages and settlements, dumping of waste in mangroves still occurs. Being prone to flooding and cyclones was also a common perspective, particularly in the Yasawa Islands and the province's coastal communities. They also raised high temperatures affecting coral reefs and pollution from major rivers flowing into the ocean.

Viseisei villagers (Vuda district) raised concerns about an investor's plan to create a channel across their

foreshore, which has restricted their access to the area. Despite their proximity to urban areas, this highlights how iTaukei people still rely on the marine environment. They also mentioned other restrictions near Vuda Point, where developers have leased land, further limiting access. While government authorities are addressing these issues, little progress has been made in the past two years. The villagers also pointed out that many surrounding reefs are dead, primarily due to siltation from logging. Although they were the first community in Fiji to build a seawall, the sea has since encroached beyond it, and they hope future projects will support long-term adaptation to such challenges. Narewa villagers (Nadi district) reported similar disputes related to environmental conservation, but emphasized that these are actively discussed and addressed within their community.

In Nailaga village (Nailaga district), iTaukei women expressed concerns about waste management and riverbank erosion, highlighting them as ongoing environmental challenges. They also voiced a desire for business support to diversify their livelihoods beyond marine and natural resource extraction. Additionally, they requested better resourcing for enforcing marine regulations, including a boat for multipurpose use, particularly enforcement. In a focus group, Toge villagers (Naloto district) discussed a tabu placed last year on their fish ponds, which has remained unenforced, leading to illegal night fishing. They described a previous incident where frustrated villagers attacked poachers, prompting police involvement. The village's natural resource management committee includes farmers who have continued the practice of burning agricultural land, reflecting their frustration with the community's failure to translate knowledge into action, as old habits persist. A male iTaukei representative from Nalogo district also mentioned that gravel extraction leases are a source of income, acknowledging the industry's presence.

Indo-Fijian informants highlighted environmental issues such as illegal fishing, which has had destructive effects on reefs, and concerns about flooding and cyclone vulnerabilities. A male Indo-Fijian fisher confirmed that dynamite fishing is a persistent illegal practice, which destroys corals, the reef matrix, and indiscriminately kills fish of all sizes. He noted that Ba has become increasingly vulnerable to cyclones and flooding, expressing concerns about the deteriorating Koroqaqa floodgate, which he believes compromises the community's flood protection. He suggested that repairing the floodgate or building retention ponds would help mitigate flood risks. Other Indo-Fijian fishers raised similar concerns about dynamite fishing, including a Tavarau fisher who mentioned frequent boat and river flooding, which requires extra caution in securing their boats. He also noted that littering and dumping are common, though he did not view coastal erosion and landslides as significant issues. However, mangroves planted on a nearby island by the Ministry of Fisheries were washed away, illustrating the challenges of ecosystem restoration. Another Indo-Fijian fisher highlighted the long-term impacts of cyclone vulnerability on fishers' homes and boats, while a fisher from Navau downplayed flooding as a major concern, noting that floodgates already provided sufficient protection, making seawalls unnecessary. Another Indo-Fijian fisher in Tavarau noted that rivers in the area have dried up, impacting freshwater ecosystems and potentially affecting fish migration patterns. He also mentioned the presence of numerous sharks in the area which he believed poses risks to fishers and hinders their ability to catch certain fish species.

In Nailaga district, an Indo-Fijian boat owner who employs iTaukei workers from the informal settlement of Nakavika shared several environmental challenges in the area, including improper waste disposal, erosion, flooding, and illegal practices harming mangroves and reefs. He explained that the lack of infrastructure in the community forces them to rely on environmentally harmful practices for survival. Waste disposal in mangroves is especially damaging, as the community consumes a lot of tinned food due to limited agriculture. Flooding is common, particularly during high tides and full moons, and public

transportation often refuses to serve the area due to the poor condition of the feeder roads. Mangroves are being destroyed for firewood, as cooking gas is unaffordable, and dynamite fishing, with explosives illicitly obtained from the Vatukoula gold mine, continues to threaten the reef. The boat owner recounted an incident where a fisher lost a limb while using dynamite for fishing.

**Factors in natural resource management decisions.** Natural resource management decision-making varies between iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities, with some overlap. A Ba Provincial Council informant explained that the Ba Yaubula Management Support Team reports to the Ba Provincial Development Committee, which then reports to the Ba Provincial Council. Projects introduced at the provincial level are passed down to district and village natural resource management committees for action. He noted the mixed success of commercial ventures at the provincial level, particularly those tied to tourism, such as the Ba Provincial Holdings Company, which operated a now-bankrupt shipping company, and vanua-based companies like the Y3 Kofera Trust, Vuda Holdings, and plans for Yasawa Holdings, all focusing on tourism investment.

Viseisei villagers (Vuda district) shared that the Vuda Yaubula Committee was established in 2011 by the *Bose Vanua o Vuda* (Vuda Chiefly Council) to serve as an advisory body to traditional leaders. This committee is now the first point of contact for investors or any issues related to the Vuda foreshore and is expected to be a key conduit for this project.

In Natutu village (Nailaga district), an iTaukei women's focus group explained that village council meetings (*Bose va Koro*) are their main decision-making forum. Committees for health, the church, women, youth, and natural resource management all report to this forum, and community groups are actively involved in preparing and presenting proposals. While village council support exists for projects, implementation often depends on the committees' own resources, highlighting a gap between influence and consistent action.

In Narewa village (Nadi district), an iTaukei focus group described a strong culture of community engagement, with vibrant networks of groups, including women, youth, church, elder, and resource management committees, actively participating in decision-making. For example, the Yavusania landowning unit recently met to address flooding concerns. In contrast, Toge villagers (Naloto district) reported that their village committees are less effective, and they rely more on the *Bose Vanua* to drive progress.

The informal settlement of Nakavika offers a unique perspective on decision-making. The community, comprising people from Vanua Levu, the Yasawa Islands, and other parts of Fiji, lacks formal access to decision-making due to their unregistered status. They rely on borewater, posing potential issues with inundation and contamination of their water source. Their self-built seawall has deteriorated over time, and seawater encroachment is affecting homes near the seafront. Although they have allied with the nearby *mataqali* of Nasolo, and have presented traditional offerings to the nearby provincial chief, different landowning units have claimed ownership over the years. The community feels neglected by authorities, as their attempts to communicate with the Roko Tui Ba have been unsuccessful, and they have missed out on support typically provided to registered villages.

Indo-Fijian informants expressed a different experience with decision-making, with many noting this consultation was their first on conservation and natural resource issues. Indo-Fijian fishers said they have limited involvement in community decision-making and focus primarily on their households' welfare. One fisher called for the inclusion of poorer fishers in decision-making, as engagement often

prioritizes more prosperous individuals like middlemen and boat owners. This sentiment was echoed by another Indo-Fijian fisher from Tavarau, who noted that rural assistance programs tend to overlook fishers. He explained that decision-making in Indo-Fijian communities typically occurs within households or informal gatherings of friends. A boat owner from Nailaga district acknowledged that Development Advisory Committee (DAC) networks provide some support, but he criticized them for what he saw as a lack of education and capacity, leading to widespread cynicism about their ability to effect change.

## Conservation Stakeholders

Other stakeholders which have undertaken awareness projects in Ba Province communities include the Ministry of Forestry, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Agriculture, Rise Beyond the Reef, GEF, WWF Pacific, ADRA Fiji, FLMMA and Habitat for Humanity.

A Ba Provincial Council key informant credited the FLMMA with laying the groundwork for governance and management plans that introduced conservation across all coastal districts. WWF has focused on marine conservation, ridge-to-reef programs, and water catchment management, particularly in the Ba-Tavua area. They have also supported mangrove nurseries and coastal conservation projects. Vinaka Fiji initially launched projects in Naviti before expanding to northern parts of Yasawa, while the Ministry of Fisheries has implemented fisheries and aquaculture projects. ADRA Fiji has promoted small gardening efforts, and the Ministry of Environment and Waterways launched their ridge-to-reef initiative, in Vuda district. The Mamanuca Environment Society, along with the Fiji National Provident Fund (FNPF) and Airport Terminal Services (ATS), has undertaken mangrove planting, although many of the mangroves have died.

Despite the various awareness campaigns, community members often report limited follow-up and few tangible results. For example, a women's group attempted a vetiver project to stabilize riverbanks in Narewa village, but the initiative failed due to livestock damage. Similarly, a much-anticipated river dredging project funded by the World Bank, intended to address climate change impacts, remains pending, leading to frustration within the community.

In addition, ridge-to-reef management workshops and household gardening programs have been facilitated by ADRA Fiji, and the Ministry of Fisheries has constructed a few tilapia ponds. The Forestry and Agriculture departments have distributed vesi, coconut, and citrus plants to promote local cultivation. Organizations like Rise Beyond the Reef and Habitat for Humanity have been involved in disaster risk reduction and community support programs. However, many residents struggle to recall specific details about these projects, particularly those initiated by UNDP and GEF, due to what they see as a lack of follow-up and implementation.

## Socio-Cultural Context

**Population.** Ba Province has a population of 250,000, with a majority urban population of 38,000 urban private households (2017 Census). As with other provinces, living arrangements vary from registered villages in which iTaukei reside, to settlements in which both Indo-Fijian and iTaukei may live. iTaukei villages consulted (Viseisei, Narewa, Natutu, Toge) have forms of organized decision-making aligned to the legally mandated structures under the *Bose Vanua* and Provincial Council. Indo-Fijians largely live on leased land.

**Ethnic, cultural, and other divisions.** Ethnic and cultural divisions are evident when comparing the

perspectives of Indo-Fijian informants and iTaukei communities regarding their involvement in natural resource management consultations. Indo-Fijian informants, all male fishers from various backgrounds across the province, expressed that they had never been consulted on matters of conservation or marine resources. They described a general disengagement from decision-making processes, relying instead on informal friendship networks and focusing on their own households. However, they acknowledged a coexistence with iTaukei communities, understanding their obligation to seek permission from *qoliqoli* (traditional fishing ground) owners before applying for fishing and boat licenses. Some informants highlighted the history of intermarriage between Indo-Fijians and iTaukei in the province, with one informant identifying as biracial. Many Indo-Fijians felt comfortable navigating between the two groups, being fluent in both iTaukei vernacular and Fiji Hindi. One Indo-Fijian fisher emphasized the need for the project to engage with and support people from diverse ethnic backgrounds, including minorities.

Challenges were also noted, such as a Tavarau-based Indo-Fijian fisher who mentioned the difficulties posed by *tabus* (temporary fishing bans) in certain *qoliqoli* areas, which impact fishers' livelihoods. Another Indo-Fijian fisher from the same area highlighted theft in the fishing community, including stolen boat fridges and engines. He added that conflicts between fishers and middlemen occurred but were not considered major issues. He also recalled past disputes with iTaukei traditional leaders over fishing rights. A Navau-based Indo-Fijian fisher spoke of the negative effects of the 1987 coup on the fishing industry, including bans, theft, and the eventual sale of his boat, which forced him to shift focus to sugarcane farming and working as a middleman. Beyond the iTaukei-Indo-Fijian divide, a Ba Provincial informant noted tensions between iTaukei resource owners and predominantly foreign tourism operators, particularly when coastal resorts and tourism facilities restrict access to *qoliqoli* areas.

**Vulnerable or marginalized groups.** Unregistered settlements, such as Nakavika in Ba, represent marginalized communities often overlooked. Inhabited by many iTaukei who have lived there for generations after migrating from other parts of Fiji, this settlement reported that they do not receive the same government support or recognition as registered villages. As a result, they lack access to iTaukei decision-making structures through the Provincial Council or village and district meetings. In Nakavika, a focus group of mostly male iTaukei fishers voiced frustration over the uncertainty of their land tenure and their inability to meet with the Roko Tui Ba to raise their concerns. Despite their adherence to traditional customs, including making offerings to the nearby chief to seek support, they are confused by inconsistent advice from various landowning units. They reported feeling neglected by authorities and believe they are treated differently from registered villages. To reduce travel costs for administrative purposes relating to fishing and boating licenses, they requested that training be brought to their community, as their feeder roads are poorly maintained, and access to urban centers is costly.

Women also face marginalization in decision-making processes. iTaukei women in the consulted villages shared mixed views about their participation. While they hold positions in women's committees and other village groups within the *Bose va Koro* (village council), they reported challenges in securing resources and support. Indo-Fijian women, though less vocal during interviews and were present as spouses of the fishers interviewed, were observed to be enterprising, growing seedlings, and engaging in various income-generating activities. They also manage households while their husbands are at sea and help with fish grading. Although LGBTQI+ advocacy groups were not visible in the community, this does not imply their absence, highlighting the need for continued engagement with marginalized and less visible groups.

## Socio-Economic Context

**Main medium to large-scale commercial activities.** Medium to large-scale commercial activities in Ba Province are primarily driven by tourism, particularly near Narewa village and in the Nadi district. A Ba Provincial Council informant confirmed that tourism dominates coastal areas, with strong ties to ocean and marine resources, stretching from the Yasawa Islands to Nadi and Lautoka. The Ba Provincial Holdings company has a history of commercial ventures, such as a now-bankrupt shipping company. Other vanua-based companies linked to the Provincial Council and villages include Y3 Kofera Trust, Vuda Holdings, and the soon-to-be-formed Yasawa Holdings, all of which will focus on tourism. Toge villagers (Naloto district) mentioned plans for gravel extraction and machinery being delivered soon for a business the village is about to run related to this.

In Navau, a male Indo-Fijian fisher mentioned a nearby knife factory employing around 50 people, owned by an individual residing in India. The gravel extraction industry also provides lease royalties to some iTaukei resource owners, as noted by a male informant from Toge in the Naloto district. The Ba Provincial Roundtable identified the logging industry as another significant player. In Viseisei village (Vuda district), oil depots, infrastructure developments, and hotels are prominent. A new oil refinery, currently in the planning stages, has become a subject of dispute in the area. A focus group from Narewa village (Nadi district) mentioned their proximity to a renowned tourism zone, which brings both opportunities and challenges in balancing economic growth and environmental conservation.

**Main small-scale to subsistence activities.** Small-scale and subsistence activities are widespread, particularly in areas outside the tourism sector, such as the Ba-Tavua area. Indo-Fijian fishers from Sarava, Ba, Tavarau, and Navau listed informal livelihoods such as fishing, cane farming, seasonal vegetable farming, and construction. They also mentioned forms of formal employment in government offices, retail outlets, processing plants, and the garment industry as key livelihoods. Cane cutting, a seasonal job, brings workers from across the country into the province. An iTaukei village focus group expressed concern that this influx of people puts pressure on marine resources, leading to an increase in crime and violations of fishing *tabus*.

A male Indo-Fijian fisher from the Ba district highlighted the challenges of fishing as a livelihood, noting that it requires significant effort to earn a decent income. He explained that the small, fragmented nature of the fishing business, along with limited financial resources, prevents fishers from making sustainable investments. He also pointed out the difficulties fishers face in meeting the stringent loan requirements of financial institutions like the Fiji Development Bank (FDB), limiting their access to loans and investment.

Both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian informants emphasized the role of iTaukei women in gleaning crabs and beche-de-mer. The women of Natutu village (Nailaga district) mentioned spending time fishing on rafts and expressed interest in cultivating crabs or prawns to manage their time more efficiently. They see the project as a potential avenue for exploring these ventures.

In the unregistered Nakavika settlement, a male iTaukei focus group shared their desire to fish legally. They reported that in a previous community meeting, up to 60 people registered for training to comply with regulations and facilitate license applications. Women in Nakavika engage in crab gleaning near the shore but lack boats to extend their time at sea, and most do not have licenses to sell fish.

## Political and Legal Context

**State of governance.** The communities consulted generally have a solid understanding of conservation laws and regulations, but their enforcement varies. Both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian informants highlighted the high costs and administrative burdens as significant challenges to adhering to laws and regulations.

A Ba Provincial Council key informant referred to the prominent legislation such as the Fisheries Act, the Environment Management Act, the Climate Change Act, and the Mining Act. Participants at the Ba Provincial Council roundtable spoke about their role in facilitating and coordinating awareness amongst villages. This includes advocacy campaigns like that of the Ministry of Women, Children and Social Protection about the importance of including women in decision-making. The Provincial Council focus group discussed their adherence to the Integrated Rural Development Framework, council meetings at village, district and provincial levels (*Bose va Koro*, etc.), as well as District Advisory Councillor (DAC) meetings. They discussed efforts to ensure that the Provincial Council's operational plans are informed by village development plans, working with relevant ministries on issues of concern such as the Ministry of Fisheries or Ministry of Forestry, as well as with the Roko Tui and Conservation Officer for conservation matters.

In iTaukei communities, there was general satisfaction with decision-making structures but there was also concern at what they described as a top-down approach, in which concerns of villagers were not necessarily reflected in decisions made at district and provincial levels. A male iTaukei informant from Natutu village (Nailaga district) mentioned that district chiefs may not always be mindful of the voices of women and youth who have a lot to contribute to the project. Hence he advised that community engagement must be generalized while also being group specific to ensure there were programs targeted towards women and youth. A male iTaukei informant in Toge village who is also a Naloto district representative saw the project as an opportunity to rejuvenate their yaubula committee as well as the women and youth committees that used to work closely with it. Villagers in Viseisei village (Vuda district) said that they were very clear on laws and regulations relating to coastal and marine areas, and currently have a legal case in progress in the courts relating to foreshore development in their district. They directed the project to the Vuda Yaubula Committee, which they said arose from a district council of chiefs meeting (*Bose Vanua o Vuda*) in 2011, to serve in an advisory role to chiefs. According to them, this yaubula committee is the entry point of all new projects in their area.

In Narewa village (Nadi district) a focus group relayed that fish wardens and community members are well-informed about fisheries laws and attempt to enforce them. However, they acknowledge that rapid development in the tourism-focused Nadi district is impacting traditional practices and creating challenges for resource management. They currently have *qoliqoli* disputes with the TLTB and Lands Department around Wailoaloa Beach, highlighting complexities with managing traditional fishing grounds. In matters of traditional government, the 12 *yavusa* (tribes) of the Tui Nadi (chief of Nadi district) adds a layer of complexity to enforcing legal frameworks. With all these challenges, Narewa village has a vibrant network of community groups that inform decision-making, including women, youth, church, elders, and resource management committees. According to the villagers, the resource management committee is active, playing a vital role in coordinating community development.

A women's focus group in Natutu village (Nailaga district) conveyed knowledge of specific legal restrictions like crab size limits, fishing gear and fish size regulations. They did not have much insight to offer on enforcement of both legal and traditional restrictions. With the usual decision-making forums in place such as the village council meeting (*Bose va Koro*) and related committees, they noted that despite

support for proposed projects from committees, this then leaves committees with the responsibility of resourcing implementation, hindering project sustainability and consistency.

Villagers in Toge (Naloto district) who were consulted conveyed an understanding of forestry laws. They pointed out siltation when it rains which they attributed to logging, causing the river to get shallower. The village has a forest ranger paid by Fiji Pine. With monitoring and enforcement continuing to be a challenge, net sizes in their river had been limited to four inches in the past, but they have noticed the use of less sustainable two-inch nets. In terms of village governance, they have resorted to engaging with the *Bose Vanua* (provincial council) as they have observed village committees under the *Bose va Koro* to be less impactful. They were forthright about how Toge yaubula committee members are also farmers, and are often involved in starting bushfires on their farmland, indicating the difficulty in adjusting old habits and behavior. Finally, a Fiji Pine scheme is underway with a 99 year lease in an area they formerly used to graze their cows. According to the villagers, cows will be allowed to graze in the pine area after three to five years.

In the unregistered Nakavika settlement, there was an awareness of legal and traditional requirements, but a lack of training and resourcing to abide by them. Because they are not *qoliqoli* owners, they must abide by licensing regulations. A focus group of male iTaukei residents, mostly fishers, expressed a desire for authorities like the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF) and the Ministry of Fisheries to provide training by visiting the communities directly so that they can facilitate their license applications without having to pay the high costs of transport to provincial offices.

Indo-Fijian informants offered a distinct perspective on laws and regulations due to their lack of customary fishing rights, intersecting with the relative precarity of their land tenure. However, they faced similar challenges due to inconsistent enforcement. A male Indo-Fijian fisher from Sarava shared his knowledge of fishing and boat license requirements. He mentioned that while goodwill payments can sometimes be waived, a boat master's license remains essential, involving costs related to life jacket requirements and engine standards. He acknowledged the importance of complying with bans on breeding-related fish and beche-de-mer restrictions, noting that undersized fish accidentally caught were consumed privately rather than sold. Although he had a mixed understanding of traditional restrictions, he pointed out that government fisheries officials provided maps showing restricted zones and permitted areas.

Overall, Indo-Fijian fishers had varied experiences regarding licensing fees and payments to *qoliqoli* owners for permission to apply for fishing licenses. While more familiar with legal requirements, many had limited understanding of traditional bans like *tabus*. A male Indo-Fijian fisher from Ba town expressed cynicism about fishing projects due to previous exploitation and the feeling of powerlessness, as small-scale fishers are often overshadowed by wealthier fishers like boat owners and middlemen. Another Indo-Fijian fisher, also from Ba, recalled that *tabus* once existed around Votua, Nailaga, and Tavua districts, but these were removed due to the absence of an active *qoliqoli* system. He raised concerns that future *qoliqoli* regulations might require paying gratuities to traditional leaders, which would significantly reduce income in an already precarious financial situation.

Another Indo-Fijian fisher from Ba acknowledged that while *tabu* areas used to be common, they are now less prevalent, and he noted widespread disregard for regulations. He doubted whether monitoring and enforcement were sufficient. A Tavarau-based Indo-Fijian fisher highlighted the inefficiency of the licensing process for fishing and boats, leading to costly delays. Many fishers went months without a renewed license, forcing them to either lose out on a livelihood or fish illegally.

Despite being subject to heavy regulations, Indo-Fijian fishers felt underserved and neglected by the government, NGOs, and development partners compared to farmers and business owners. One Tavarau-based Indo-Fijian fisher, who had fished for 35 years, stated that he had never been consulted on fishing matters. The inconsistency in licensing was evident in the different experiences of two Indo-Fijian fishers from the same area. One Navau-based fisher, who had fished in the same grounds for 35 years, reported that he no longer had to make goodwill payments to *qoliqoli* owners since the Fiji First government under former Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama. Another Indo-Fijian fisher from Navau, however, said he was required to pay annual goodwill fees to the *Roko Tui* in Lautoka, ranging from \$1,300 to \$1,500, in order to obtain a boat license. These goodwill fees are the varying amounts paid to *qoliqoli* owners in exchange for the permission required as part of a fishing license application. He also mentioned that fishers crossing the Votua fishing grounds to reach the Yasawa Islands were required to pay additional fees and were charged \$300 to \$500 annually to cut mangroves for fish bundles. Moreover, fishers were fined \$100 if a death occurred during their activities in the area. Such goodwill fees are not legislated, are separate from licensing fees, and represent a significant risk in the social and financial precarity facing fishers without customary fishing rights - predominantly Indo-Fijian fishers.

He also highlighted widespread illegal fishing practices, such as night diving, involving government officials, farmers, and fishers. A boat owner from Nailaga district discussed hidden costs and bureaucratic hurdles in securing fishing and boat licenses. Even when fees were waived, transport, documentation, and obtaining a signed letter of approval from a chief—often involving a goodwill payment—remained expensive. Delays in license processing, sometimes lasting months, further pushed people into illegal activities like fishing without a license and using methods such as dynamite.

**Major factors outside the project that have an impact on it.** External factors that may affect the project's success were highlighted during consultations. A male Indo-Fijian fisher from Navau expressed concern over the declining number of young people, especially men, entering the fishing industry, attributing it to the increasing challenges and costs involved. A Tavarau-based Indo-Fijian informant mentioned rising drug issues in the area and a growing trend of thefts, mostly involving young people. Key informants, particularly from the Indo-Fijian community, noted a generational shift away from fishing.

A male Indo-Fijian fisher from Navau linked the decline in young fishers to the mounting difficulties in the profession. Additionally, a male Indo-Fijian boat owner from Nailaga raised concerns over government-supported bulk buying of fibre-glass boats for iTaukei villages, which has caused boat prices to rise from \$8,000 to \$11,000, making it harder for individual fishers to afford boats.

In Narewa, an iTaukei village in a tourism hotspot, social challenges such as drug influxes and negative influences from nearby tourist areas like Wailoaloa Beach were mentioned. The community also observed a top-heavy traditional leadership structure, which may affect participation and decision-making in the project.

During the cane harvesting season, a focus group in Toge village (Naloto district) reported an influx of people from across Fiji, which they associated with rising crime rates and the breaking of *tabus* in their fishing grounds. A male Indo-Fijian boat owner in Nailaga also highlighted the prevalence of crime in the fishing community, including stolen boats and engines.

## Cross-Cutting Issues

**Children's rights.** Concerns about children's rights were not a major focus in discussions, but a male Indo-Fijian boat owner and fisher in Nailaga highlighted the high rate of school dropouts in the unregistered Nakavika settlement. He attributed this issue to the economic pressures faced by iTaukei fishers, especially when fishing licenses expire at the end of December and processing delays stretch for months. Without alternative income sources, such as farming, families in Nakavika struggle, leading to children missing school and dropping out early.

During the interview, the fisher pointed out two iTaukei siblings in his own compound who had dropped out of school, were family members of boat crew employees, and were helping with household chores. He emphasized that even the government's \$200 back-to-school support per child is insufficient, as it doesn't cover ongoing costs like meals, bus fare, and other long-term expenses necessary for regular school attendance.

**Human rights.** Aspects of human rights concern relate to communities in unregistered settlements, such as Nakavika in Ba, face further challenges. Populated by iTaukei who have lived there for generations, these settlements do not receive the same government support or recognition as registered villages. This limits their access to iTaukei decision-making structures, including Provincial Council or village meetings. A focus group of male iTaukei fishers from Nakavika expressed frustration over uncertain land tenure and their inability to meet with the Roko Tui Ba to voice concerns. Despite following traditional customs, they receive inconsistent advice from landowning units and feel neglected by authorities. To address administrative challenges and reduce travel costs for fishing and boating licenses, they requested that training be brought to their community, as their roads are poorly maintained and access to urban centers is expensive.

**Gender equality and women's rights.** iTaukei women raised challenges in decision-making processes. While they hold roles in village committees, they reported difficulties in securing resources and support. Indo-Fijian women, though less vocal during interviews, were observed to be enterprising, managing households, growing seedlings, and engaging in income-generating activities. Although LGBTQI+ groups were not visible in the community, their absence in discussions suggests the need for continued engagement with marginalized and less visible groups. Both women and LGBTQI+ groups deserve a targeted engagement as part of the project and this was raised by several individuals consulted with from both ethnic groups.

**Resource efficiency, pollution prevention and management of chemicals and waste, conflict sensitivity, climate change.** Regarding resource efficiency, some informants noted the top-down nature of decision-making within the iTaukei chiefly system, calling for more inclusive consultations across all levels. In Toge village (Naloto district), they emphasized the limited impact of village committees and the need to engage the council of chiefs (*Bose Vanua*) at the provincial level to achieve meaningful outcomes.

Pollution management was a significant concern across many iTaukei villages, exemplified by the contributions of the people of Viseisei village in the Vuda district, where fuel depots are located. Residents have observed depleted marine life and are currently pursuing a court case related to a proposed oil refinery development. Villagers also recognized the environmental impact of the logging industry, which has led to siltation in rivers and other environmental challenges.

Conflict sensitivity issues emerged during consultations. A Tavarau-based Indo-Fijian fisher noted that temporary fishing bans (*tabus*) in certain *qoliqoli* areas affected livelihoods. Another fisher from the same area raised concerns about theft in the fishing community, including stolen boat fridges and engines, though conflicts with middlemen were not seen as major. He also recalled past disputes with iTaukei traditional leaders over fishing rights. A Navau-based Indo-Fijian fisher shared how the 1987 coup had negatively impacted the fishing industry, leading to bans, theft, and ultimately the sale of his boat, forcing him into sugarcane farming and middleman work. Beyond the Indo-Fijian and iTaukei divide, a Ba Provincial Council informant highlighted tensions between iTaukei resource owners and foreign tourism operators, particularly where coastal resorts restrict access to *qoliqoli* areas.

## Ra Province

### Context of the Project Area

**Land use.** Ra Province has a population of 30,000 people comprising 7,000 private households, including 1,000 urban and 6,000 rural households (2017 Census), spread across 19 districts. The province is home to diverse and unique coral reef habitats, the Nakauvadra mountain range, and three major river systems with rich biodiversity. Notably, Ra is the source of the artesian water exported by Fiji Water. Key developments in the province include the Waimacea Complex, a project led by local businessman and politician George Shiu Raj, and the long-standing Wananavu Resort, which is undergoing renovations after being destroyed by TC Winston and changing ownership. While few new developments have occurred, a \$10 million hotel project is expected to create employment opportunities. Additionally, a large-scale carbon trading project proposed by a Chinese company is still in the planning stages, with ongoing discussions.

A female iTaukei informant from Naroko village (Naroko district) shared that her community has implemented a ridge-to-reef management plan, while a resident of Malake village (Rakiraki district) confirmed that although some people work in town, fishing remains the main livelihood on the island. She noted the ongoing expansion of the Wananavu Resort and was aware of large hotel developments planned along the mainland coast. Another female iTaukei informant from Vitawa village (Rakiraki district) mentioned the planned redevelopment of the village's 8-pond aquaculture business and highlighted the large mangrove system along the coast.

**Environmental issues.** Indo-Fijian informants, all male fishers, primarily lived on leased land. A fisher from Volivoli confirmed that fishing is the main livelihood in the area, complemented by sugarcane farming. However, another Volivoli fisher voiced concerns about the decline in both fishing and farming, attributing it to the migration of young people in search of better education and employment opportunities. He added that increasingly hot and dry seasons have made farming more challenging, leading to a rise in abandoned or unused farms. While cane farming is still active, its significance is gradually fading.

**Factors in natural resource management decisions.** Key factors in decision-making on natural resource management can be arranged in distinct and sometimes overlapping ways in which iTaukei and Indo-Fijians share concerns, determine solutions, mobilize resources and make decisions about the use of farmland and fishing grounds.

The iTaukei communities consulted at the Provincial Council, district, and village levels shared insights into how the legally mandated decision-making structure, from the *Bose va Koro* (village council) to the

*Bose Vanua* (council of chiefs), is implemented. The Provincial Council outlined that the Roko Tui's office facilitates all decision-making forums, ensuring equal representation and adherence to traditional (Vanua) protocols. A male informant from Navolau district, a former yaubula representative, confirmed that decision-making processes are well-defined, starting at the village level and moving through district and provincial levels. However, he noted that challenges arise in implementation, as follow-through from communities on agreed decisions does not always occur.

A focus group in Rewasa village (Naroko district) acknowledged the *Bose va Koro* as part of the government's structure, recognizing the requirements for equal participation of women and youth. Village elders were noted to be supportive of these groups, and their presence at village council meetings (*Bose va Koro*) reassured the community that they backed committee initiatives. When it comes to land and *qoliqoli* (fishing ground) access, the focus group clarified that such matters fall under the *Bose Vanua* (council of chiefs), where only clan heads convene to handle customary and traditional issues. This division of responsibilities was echoed in other iTaukei villages.

In Malake village (Rakiraki district), the *Bose va Koro* serves as the official forum for village development, while conservation matters are managed by the yaubula committee within the same structure. *Qoliqoli* matters are overseen by the Uluda *Qoliqoli* Committee, responsible for Rakiraki district's fishing grounds. They stressed the importance of patience for those implementing marine conservation initiatives, as fishers are often unavailable during the day due to being out at sea, and their schedules must be considered.

In Vitawa village (Rakiraki district), a village focus group emphasized the distinction between land and sea matters. Land development is directed to the relevant clans whose land is involved, while *qoliqoli* issues are taken to the *Bose Vanua* Naisogoliku (the council of chiefs overseeing the fishing grounds). The village's 8-pond aquaculture project underscored the value of transparency when using this decision-making structure.

Among the Indo-Fijians consulted (all male fishers and boat owners), involvement in decision-making for natural resource use varied from complete disengagement to minimal and informal networking. Four fishers from the Volivoli and Ellington Wharf areas were aware of District Advisory Councillors (DACs) in their communities but were skeptical of their impact, seeing their roles as limited to addressing water and road access issues. One Volivoli informant admitted he was unfamiliar with natural resource management decision-making processes in villages. He suggested that the Ministry of Fisheries could facilitate these decisions, as his primary interactions were with them for licensing purposes, and they maintain contact details for all licensed fishers.

Another Volivoli-based fisher noted that, as a Muslim, he is aware of the presence of the Muslim League in the area, but its involvement in convening members to discuss resource management was minimal. A third Volivoli fisher remarked that collective decision-making among fishers in the community was virtually nonexistent, with individuals largely managing their own affairs.

Two fishers from the Caulasi area highlighted specific instances where Indo-Fijian fishers interacted with government and iTaukei communities. One Caulasi informant mentioned a proposed government project to install a borehole and water tank in his community, which was abandoned due to disagreements over the power source needed, as the hilly terrain required a water pump to address low water pressure. The second Caulasi informant recalled conflicts between Indo-Fijians and iTaukei 15 to

20 years ago over fishing grounds and accusations of poaching, but confirmed that these disputes have since been resolved.

Many Indo-Fijian fishers saw the Ministry of Fisheries as a potential convening authority due to its role in issuing licenses. Two fishers emphasized the need for better organization among fishers to secure capital and opportunities. A fisher near Ellington Wharf pointed out that the small-scale and disorganized nature of fishing in their community limits their financial capacity, preventing them from investing in sustainable ventures. Another fisher and boat owner in Volivoli expressed frustration over the lack of support and representation for fishers. He suggested that forming a union would give them a stronger voice, similar to farmer organizations, and could help secure better investment opportunities for fishers. However, no such group currently exists.

## Socio-Cultural Context

**Population.** Ra Province has a population of 30,000, primarily composed of 6,000 rural private households (2017 Census). Living arrangements vary, with iTaukei residing in registered villages, while both iTaukei and Indo-Fijians may live in settlements. The iTaukei villages consulted (Namuaimada, Malake, Vitawa, Rewasa) follow government-mandated decision-making structures under the *Bose Vanua* and the Provincial Council. Indo-Fijian informants, who typically live on leased land, were aware of the legal requirement to obtain *qoliqoli* (fishing ground) owner approval for fishing licenses.

**Ethnic, cultural, and other divisions.** Ethnic and cultural divisions remain between iTaukei and Indo-Fijians, primarily due to their distinct land tenure systems and approaches to collective decision-making and resource mobilization. While many informants described these divisions as being in the past, they are still a part of people's consciousness. A male Indo-Fijian fisher from Volivoli recalled that his father's generation dealt with theft, particularly with iTaukei individuals stealing fish from boats. Another Indo-Fijian fisher from Caulasi mentioned that conflicts over fishing grounds and theft between iTaukei and Indo-Fijians were common 15 to 20 years ago but no longer occur. However, a Volivoli-based Indo-Fijian fisher disagreed, noting that fish theft from nets, hooks, and boats still happens, particularly in the Naigani fishing grounds, where he witnessed such incidents twice this year. A third Volivoli fisher added that while fishers at sea tend to share food and socialize, tensions often arise once they return to land.

Divisions also exist within each ethnic community, particularly around the effectiveness of decision-making structures and the inclusion of women and youth in development projects. In Rewasa village (Naroko district), a women's group leader mentioned that their elderly chief has left much of the leadership burden on the *Turaga ni Koro*, who supports conservation efforts and oversees projects through the *Bose va Koro*. However, she noted that women's voices often become sidelined once projects start generating income, despite their initial involvement. Similarly, a male Indo-Fijian fisher from Volivoli expressed frustration with his community's District Advisory Councillor (DAC), stating that they have been ineffective in addressing key issues like water supply and road maintenance.

Tensions also exist between local communities—both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian—and foreign-owned hotel and tourism operators. These conflicts center on hotels restricting fishers' access to coastal areas and the ocean in front of their resorts. A former yaubula representative from Navolau district explained that the expansion of Volivoli Resort has been halted because the owners did not follow proper procedures for extending their use of the land and *qoliqoli* area. The resort also restricted the community from accessing the coastline, and negotiations on the matter are ongoing. Similarly, a Volivoli-based Indo-

Fijian fisher shared a common experience where resort operators prevented local fishers from crossing in front of their beaches or anchoring nearby for shelter during bad weather.

The iTaukei people, who hold customary rights over the land and sea, are represented by government-mandated Provincial Councils. According to the Ra Provincial Council, they use an integrated rural development framework to collaborate with various government ministries and NGOs to address the province's priorities. They emphasized the need for support in implementing projects identified through the existing *Bose va Koro* (village council) decision-making structure. During this year's *Bose ni Yasana* (Provincial Council Meeting), it was decided that every project in the province must have a monitoring committee. The Provincial Council believes that the Provincial Conservation Officer is well-positioned to help implement this decision and is seeking funding to establish a community monitoring mechanism. This mechanism is seen as essential to ensure that activities are carried out effectively throughout the life of all projects in the province. Villagers from Rewasa (Naroko district) and Malake (Rakiraki district) expressed a strong understanding of their land and ocean resources, incorporating traditional knowledge of fishing practices. They noted that past projects failed due to a lack of support from the community.

**Vulnerable or marginalized groups.** Indo-Fijians make up a significant part of the Ra Province community but face marginalization on multiple fronts, including falling outside the scope of iTaukei decision-making processes. Often residing on leased land, they face declining opportunities for farming as extended dry and hot seasons make it difficult to grow sugar cane, vegetables, or raise livestock. Many Indo-Fijians observe the outward migration of their children, leaving behind elderly parents or uncultivated farmland. A male Indo-Fijian fisher from Volivoli highlighted that middle-aged or elderly farmers are often left behind as their children move to urban areas or overseas for better opportunities. He shared that, unlike him, his children have no interest in continuing the family fishing tradition. While Indo-Fijians are able to diversify their income by combining fishing with small-scale agriculture, the conditions of their land leases often limit the scale of farming they can pursue. Another Indo-Fijian fisher from Volivoli expressed frustration that, despite wanting to expand his farming operations, he lacks access to sufficient farmland as he is living on someone else's property. District Advisory Councillors (DACs) are meant to assist in addressing community needs, particularly for Indo-Fijian settlements, by reporting to district and provincial officials. However, the Indo-Fijians consulted expressed little confidence in the effectiveness of DACs in addressing their concerns.

Youth and women in Ra Province face structural exclusion, despite their involvement in village-level *Bose va Koros* through youth and women's committees. A representative from the women's group in Rewasa village (Naroko district) noted that although women participate in village projects initially, their involvement often diminishes once these projects start generating income. However, there is potential for progress, as Rewasa's women's group, consisting of over 60 members, is led by women in their late thirties who are open to new ideas. In Vitawa, the women's group expressed interest in running their own separate income-earning initiative because they believe they manage projects better than men. They provided the example of their village aquaculture project which closed with only men managing it. After it was revived this year, it is now operating well with a woman involved as treasurer.

In Vitawa village (Rakiraki district), where over half the men work in town or agriculture, there are opportunities to engage youth and women in conservation efforts. The village has shown interest in evolving from traditional committee structures into cooperatives or trusts for conservation, indicating a progressive approach.

Indo-Fijian women face similar marginalization. Although not directly represented among the informants, they were observed to play crucial roles in their households while their spouses are away fishing. Observations and conversations in the margins revealed that Indo-Fijian women are actively involved in household management, grading fish, and small-scale ventures such as selling pot plants.

Young Indo-Fijians were also notably absent from consultations, with informants explaining that many leave for studies and employment in urban centers, limiting their involvement in community matters.

## Socio-Economic Context

**Main medium to large-scale commercial activities.** Medium- to large-scale commercial activities in Ra Province are limited, with tourism being the most frequently mentioned sector. Small-scale and subsistence fishing and agriculture are the most common economic activities among informants. The Ra Provincial Council expressed concern that businesses, particularly in tourism, might resist conservation efforts, as they have done in the past.

A focus group in Malake village (Rakiraki district) pointed out nearby resorts, such as Volivoli Resort and others along the mainland coast. The Vitawa village (Rakiraki district) group mentioned the anticipated development of Yaqara Studio City. A former iTaukei yaubula representative from Navolau district explained that much of the land in the district is leased for sugar cane farming, while the rest is used for *voivoi* cultivation (for weaving mats) and village housing, with fishing as the primary livelihood. A Namuaimada village (Navolau district) focus group also highlighted sugar cane farming as the dominant activity, followed by selling mangrove seedlings to the Ministry of Fisheries and seaweed cultivation for sale.

In terms of livelihoods, a male iTaukei informant and former district representative for Navolau district reported that *voivoi* and fishing are the primary sources of income, with much of their land leased for sugarcane farming. He also mentioned that further development of the Volivoli Hotel has been halted due to the owners not following proper procedures to expand their use of the land and *qoliqoli*. Restrictions placed by the hotel on the iTaukei community's access to the coastal area are currently under negotiation.

**Main small-scale to subsistence activities.** For small-scale and subsistence activities, fishing and agriculture remain dominant. In Rewasa village (Naroko district), focus group participants mentioned that some families run small businesses or work as market vendors, with hopes for more such ventures in the future. In Malake village, seaweed harvesting, primarily undertaken by women, was noted as a significant livelihood. Similarly, women in Navolau district, as noted by the former yaubula representative, are engaged in cultivating *voivoi* for weaving and selling mats.

Among Indo-Fijian informants, fishing as boat owners was the main livelihood, supplemented by subsistence farming of vegetables, livestock rearing, particularly chickens, and horticulture (women selling flowers and pot plants) as shared by a male Indo-Fijian Volivoli fisher. It was also observed that many of the small roadside shops by the highway or near villages tended to be Indo-Fijian owned. A male Indo-Fijian Caulasi-based informant mentioned that many like him and his wife have children residing abroad who assist them. He shared that he and his wife in particular have financially supported their children to move to other parts of Fiji and establish themselves there.

All the fishers emphasized the outward migration of young people and anticipated a further decline in

farming as older generations retire and stop cultivating their land. Two Volivoli fishers also noted that new development projects are rare and usually limited to expansions of existing hotels, with only one new hotel under construction. One fisher remarked on the trend of foreign buyers purchasing land at low prices and reselling it at higher rates, primarily to other foreigners for home construction. He highlighted ongoing conflicts between locals (both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian) and hotel developers over land and coastal access, with resorts often restricting fishers like himself from anchoring near their beaches during bad weather.

Farming—mainly sugarcane, vegetables, and livestock—is the primary alternative to fishing in terms of land use. However, a Volivoli-based Indo-Fijian fisher explained that when farming was not viable, he worked in hotels, noting that many who now work in tourism transitioned from farming as it became unsustainable. Overall, the fishers observed a standstill in land development, driven mainly by hotel expansion, while both the farming and fishing industries decline as younger generations leave the area.

## Political and Legal Context

**State of governance.** Communities consulted with in Ra Province had a generally solid knowledge of laws and regulations relating to natural resource use, but administration and enforcement varies. iTaukei and Indo-Fijian informants highlighted vulnerabilities in decision-making structures, a history of conflict relating to *qoliqoli* access, and the high costs and administrative burdens as significant challenges to adhering to laws and regulations.

Governance in iTaukei communities of Ra Province is led by the Ra Provincial Council. Participants in a roundtable with the Provincial Council confirmed that they are aware of relevant laws and conduct community awareness in collaboration with government ministries and NGOs. The Roko Tui's office facilitates decision-making, ensuring equal representation and participation while adhering to traditional (Vanua) protocols. The province follows an integrated rural development framework, coordinating efforts across ministries and non-government stakeholders. This year's *Bose ni Yasana* (provincial meeting) resolved to assign a monitoring committee to every project in the province. The Provincial Council sees the Provincial Conservation Officer as key to supporting this initiative and is seeking funds for operational costs to implement the resolution, ensuring sustainability and impact of project activities.

At the village level, there is broad awareness of regulations on boating, fishing, and commerce. In Namuaimada village (Navolau district), focus group participants detailed knowledge of vessel registration, safety equipment requirements, operator licensing, fishing licenses, catch limits, and seasonal restrictions. The *Bose va Koro* serves as the government-mandated forum for raising and discussing issues and making decisions, which are either referred to chiefs or government authorities for action. Namuaimada villagers confirmed the existence of a periodically enforced *tabu* (fishing restriction) on their *qoliqoli* (fishing grounds), which helps protect their coral reefs.

In Rewasa village (Naroko district), participants understood regulations against improper waste disposal and using poison to catch prawns. However, they noted that some laws are inconsistently followed and only partially known. Elders in Rewasa support inclusive governance by involving youth and women in decision-making through the *Bose va Koro*. Malake village (Rakiraki district) demonstrated knowledge of fisheries regulations, health laws regarding waste disposal, and environmental laws concerning mangrove cutting and ocean pollution. Their *Bose va Koro* manages village development, with the

yaubula committee overseeing conservation efforts and the district-level Uluda *Qoliqoli* Committee handling fishing matters.

In Vitawa village (Rakiraki district), participants mentioned the Fisheries Act and the Fiji Environmental Law Association's awareness efforts on mangrove and foreshore-related laws. However, they expressed difficulty in remembering detailed environmental laws unless refreshed. Their *Bose va Koro* manages village development, with land issues referred to the respective clans and *qoliqoli* matters handled by the *Bose Vanua* Naisogoliku (the council of chiefs overseeing fishing grounds).

A former yaubula representative in Navolau discussed challenges with fishing regulations, noting that while fishers are expected to adhere to size limits, enforcement is inconsistent, as they measure their own catches. Small fish that are caught often don't survive and are either released, consumed privately, or sold illegally. Past *tabu* areas are no longer enforced and were communicated verbally.

While communities support ridge-to-reef conservation efforts, they stress the need for tangible benefits. The Navolau district representative saw previous initiatives, such as those by Women in Fisheries, as lacking direct advantages for the community. He concluded there is a growing need for stable markets in products like *voivoi* (pandanus for weaving mats) to diversify income and reduce reliance on fisheries.

In Malake village (Rakiraki district) an iTaukei female informant relayed that while aware of health and environmental regulations, she observed that conservation projects have not been well received in Malake, partly due to a lack of community participation and support, as well as a history of resistance from the church. The informant expressed hope for change and that better organization through linking with the *mataqalis* (clans and resource owning units) could ensure wider support for conservation efforts.

Amongst Indo-Fijian fishers consulted, there was also a general understanding of licensing requirements and regulations relating to fishing ground access, seasonal bans, *tabus* and catch size limits. However, there are varying conditions imposed on them for gaining permission from *qoliqoli* owners as required for fishing licenses. A Volivoli-based male Indo-Fijian fisher noted that while *tabus* are enforced in certain areas, there are others where *tabus* are not strictly followed. He mentioned that he consults with the Vitawa *mataqali* or Rakiraki village (Rakiraki district) to gain permission to apply for a fishing license, paying \$100. Relating to illegal fishing practices, diving with compressors and fishing with dynamite are less common due to patrols by the military and Ministry of Fisheries. Another male Indo-Fijian fisher in Naisogoliku noted a different experience, where fish theft from boats is not a significant issue and there is no requirement to pay gratuities to *qoliqoli* owners for permission to apply for fishing licenses. A Volivoli-based male Indo-Fijian fisher expressed frustration with an ongoing conflict with the nearby Duadua Resort, where resort operators restrict Indo-Fijian fishers from the area stating that they have an exclusive water lease to do so. Theft of fish from nets and boats was mentioned by some Indo-Fijian fishers, with one stating that they often allow minor theft to avoid confrontation, acknowledging that such a practice could encourage further criminal activity.

Generational shifts may impact the project, particularly as conservation-minded iTaukei elders pass away. If the community continues to support their efforts, as the Namuaimada village focus group suggested, they would likely maintain their *tabus* (fishing restrictions). However, for Indo-Fijian fishers, the future presents a challenge. Informants noted an aging fishing population and expressed concerns that in the next two decades, few fishers will remain as their children pursue education and

employment elsewhere with no intention of returning. A male Indo-Fijian fisher from near Ellington Wharf highlighted that many younger individuals are disinterested in fishing, preferring consistent incomes and more stable lifestyles. This generational shift could open opportunities for alternative livelihoods, potentially reducing dependence on marine resource extraction.

Seasonal migration and its impact on natural resource use are also potential challenges. Both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian informants linked the influx of cane harvest workers with increased theft and disregard for *tabus*. A male Indo-Fijian fisher in Volivoli noted that the large seasonal migration leaves fishing community members feeling outnumbered and unable to prevent theft.

**Major factors outside the project that have an impact on it.** Crime, particularly the theft of fish from nets and boats at sea, was a concern raised by Indo-Fijian fishers. Theft of livestock on farms was also mentioned. One fisher shared that they often overlook minor thefts to avoid conflicts. Although not explicitly stated, it is possible that these thefts involve iTaukei individuals, which may explain the reluctance to confront them—possibly due to concerns about future access to *qoliqolis* (traditional fishing grounds). This delicate dynamic could affect project implementation. As an Indo-Fijian informant emphasized, it is crucial to ensure the inclusion of Indo-Fijians as fellow citizens, members of coastal communities, and fishers, who can contribute to the project's success.

Conflicts with tourism operators present significant challenges. A former yaubula representative from Navolau district shared that the expansion of Volivoli Resort was halted because the owners failed to follow proper procedures in extending their use of the land and *qoliqoli* (fishing grounds). The resort also restricted the community's access to the coastline, and negotiations to resolve the issue are ongoing. Similarly, an Indo-Fijian fisher based in Volivoli voiced frustration over a conflict with Duadua Resort, where operators have restricted Indo-Fijian fishers, claiming an exclusive water lease. A male Indo-Fijian fisher from Caulasi raised concerns about mangrove destruction by resort owners, noting that the construction of seawalls to protect the coast may further damage the mangroves, adding another layer of environmental risk to the tensions between fishers and tourism operators.

## Cross-Cutting Issues

**Human rights.** Crime, including the theft of fish from nets and boats and livestock from farms, was a significant concern raised by Indo-Fijian informants. That one Indo-Fijian fisher noted that they often overlook minor thefts to avoid conflicts, indicates broader issues of trust and security within the community. Although not explicitly stated, there is a possible underlying fear of addressing these thefts due to concerns about future access to *qoliqolis* (traditional fishing grounds). This delicate situation highlights the challenges of ensuring equitable treatment and respect for all community members. Addressing these issues effectively will be crucial for the project, as it is essential to recognize Indo-Fijian fishers as equal and vital stakeholders in coastal communities. Equally important is acknowledging the human rights of iTaukei communities, who, despite having some awareness of laws and regulations for natural resource management, may lack comprehensive knowledge about their rights or how to seek redress given their admitted incomplete understanding of laws. Ongoing tensions with tourism operators restricting access to beach and coastal areas further indicates challenges with recognizing and respecting the rights of both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities.

**Gender equality and women's rights.** In Rewasa village (Naroko district), women initially engage in village projects, but their involvement often declines once projects begin generating income. However, Rewasa's women's group, led by proactive women in their late thirties, shows potential for

advancement. In Vitawa village (Rakiraki district), where many men are employed elsewhere, women have expressed interest in running their own income-generating initiatives, citing better management compared to men, as seen with their successful aquaculture project now overseen by a female treasurer. Indo-Fijian women, though not directly represented in consultations, play vital roles in household management, fish grading, and small-scale enterprises like selling pot plants while their spouses are fishing. This highlights the significant yet often unrecognized contributions of women across both iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities. There was a noted absence of LGBTQI+ informants in the consultations, highlighting the need for more targeted engagement with marginalized and less visible populations.

**Resource efficiency, pollution prevention and management of chemicals and waste, conflict sensitivity, climate change.** Resource efficiency is a key priority at the provincial level, shown by the recent *Bose Vanua* resolution to establish monitoring committees for all projects in iTaukei communities. The Provincial Council has emphasized the role of the Provincial Conservation Office in implementing this decision and is seeking funds to implement the decision. However, this means that without substantial external funding there could be challenges with implementation. For Indo-Fijians, resource efficiency issues also arise from a lack of confidence in the District Advisory Council (DAC) network, as highlighted by a Caulasi informant who noted a government project for a borehole and water tank was stalled due to disagreements over power sources needed for the hilly terrain.

Conflicts with tourism operators and between iTaukei and Indo-Fijian communities further complicate the situation. The halted expansion of Volivoli Resort is attributed to landowners' claims that the resort did not follow proper procedures for extending its land and *qoliqoli* (fishing grounds) use, and the resort's restriction of community access to the coastline. Indo-Fijian fishers have also expressed frustration over being barred from crossing in front of resort beaches or anchoring nearby, citing exclusive water leases claimed by the resorts.

All communities acknowledge their vulnerability to storms and flooding. Concerns were raised by a male Indo-Fijian fisher from Caulasi about the destruction of mangroves due to resort owners' construction of seawalls intended to protect the coast from inundation and storm surges, which the informant believes could inadvertently harm the mangroves.

## Project-Specific Feedback

Provincial roundtables conveyed advice related to effective engagement and skills transfer. Roundtable participants conveyed how hands-on training is more effective and appreciated by communities than workshops. Proper communication and careful site selection are crucial. Engaging all stakeholders, including those involved in Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMAs), builds on existing efforts. While students focus on theory, real-world applications are often overlooked. Collaboration with WCS and ongoing consultations with WWF, provincial stakeholders, and communities are essential. Skilled project workers, cooperation from provincial leaders, and support from government agencies will improve implementation. Effective community engagement, raising awareness about coral reefs, and establishing community monitoring mechanisms are vital. A holistic, multisectoral approach with strong coordination and stakeholder involvement is recommended, supported by communication platforms like Viber groups.

Villages, settlements and key informants consulted provided advice based on their contexts in terms of location, local knowledge and experience. For example, the complexities surrounding the foreshore

developments at Vuda, particularly an investor's plan to create a channel and the leasing issues at Vuda Point, illustrate a deep dependence on the marine environment despite the growth of blue- and white-collar employment. According to iTaukei informants, these projects have restricted access to essential fishing areas, amplifying existing socio-economic strains on the community. The degradation of reefs due to siltation from logging, as well as the stalling of ministry interventions for over two years, has left IPLCs with little recourse. Any sustainable development initiative must consider these longstanding challenges.

To address these interconnected issues, it is essential to balance environmental protection with socio-economic sustainability. Solutions should integrate community-driven leadership, particularly by consulting marginalized groups, including women and youth. For instance, a youth conservation program, coupled with targeted hands-on training (more than just awareness) for those aged 18–35, can strengthen stewardship and resource management. Women informants, relatively confident but facing lingering challenges in their roles as custodians of the *qoliqoli* (traditional fishing grounds), advocate for WWF and other stakeholders to prioritize their involvement through skill-building and leadership opportunities.

Informants showed an interest in enhancing sustainable fishing practices and resource management, while simultaneously supporting agricultural resilience and alternative livelihoods. For instance, the up to 60 community members in Nakavika settlement in Ba expressed a desire to fish within legal regulations, inviting training on licensing and administrative requirements, fostering sustainable livelihoods in an area where income is precarious. Additionally, alternative livelihoods could be explored to ensure that people can maintain economic stability without further depleting marine resources, as many villagers expressed the desire to diversify their livelihood options. While income earning projects related to natural resources were a priority for iTaukei communities, Indo-Fijian fishers bemoaned that there were no loans and hardly any support delivered to them, for example when their boats were damaged after cyclones. They too expressed interest in commercial ventures to expand their livelihoods beyond fishing but were stymied by a lack of access to capital.

Consulted parties advised that transparency and accountability across all project phases will build trust and prevent the failures of past initiatives. One specific pointer was for “constant communication” using existing meeting and decision-making mechanisms such as the *Bose va Koro* system and provincial Conservation Officer network for iTaukei villages, and the DAC, faith-based, chamber of commerce, and school management committee networks for Indo-Fijian communities and settlements, investing in their resourcing and training to inform and engage with stakeholders. Learning from previous unsuccessful, incomplete or unfulfilled projects, lack of involvement and clear communication often undermined success, they advocated that effort must engage a range of community members. The people of Malake village in Rakiraki district (Ra Province) suggested for instance that meetings be held in the afternoons or evenings, as many fishers are away during the day.

