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IN PARTNERSHIP WITH: Pacific Community Communauté du Pacifique, SPREP, IUCN

KIWA INITIATIVE

Enhancing coastal protection / Nature-based seawalls in Fiji

Project coordinator : Ministry of Waterways and Environment (MoWE)

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD

March 2023 – March 2027

AMOUNT OF FUNDING

€ 326,077

Theme

Coastal Ecosystem Management and Restoration

Main co-benefits, in addition to climate change adaptation

- Socio-economic resilience
- Disaster Risk reduction

Coastal communities in Fiji are increasingly exposed to erosion, tidal flooding, and saltwater intrusion driven by sea level rise and climate variability.
The Ministry of Waterways is implementing an integrated **nature-based seawall** project across six vulnerable sites to reduce these risks while restoring local ecosystems and improving livelihoods.
The project goal is to reduce the vulnerability of coastal communities, coastal inundation, and erosion through the provision of nature-based seawalls.

Specific objectives:

- Strengthen communities and institutions through **awareness and improved knowledge of coastal management.**
- **Reduce the vulnerability of coastal livelihoods and infrastructure to erosion and climate impacts.**
- Establish nature-based seawalls to support **long-term adaptation** and biodiversity restoration.

Planting of vetiver slips, Fiji - MoWE © Kiwa Initiative - 2024

Subregion: ■ Melanesia/Timor-Leste ☐ Micronesia ☐ Polynesia

Fiji

6 sites, namely Nakawaqa Village, Vesi Village, Ligaulevu village in Mali Island, along with Somosomo village in Taveuni, Navola village and Navolau in Viti Levu

Beneficiaries:
1,455 individuals from 6 villages (including 675 women and 780 men).

Key results to date:

The Ministry revised the project scope to improve deliverability. Consultations were completed in Navolau No.1, Somosomo and Navola Village. Awareness efforts continued in Mali Island.

NbS seawall construction

- Construction finalised at Navolau 1 Village (100% completed, with backfilling and plantation of vetiver done), and Somosomo Village (90% completed, nearing completion). Consultation in Navola Village has been completed and construction is about to commence.

Ecosystem restoration and planting

- Mangrove and vetiver seedlings will be acquired and planted once construction is finalized. Vesi Village completed vetiver planting and mangrove planting.

Capacity building and training

- The Ministry initiated local engagement and technical oversight through regular site visits. Community teams were mobilized for planting and shoreline maintenance (backfilling and recovery of lost boulders).

Next steps:

- Key next steps include completing consultation for Mali, Ligaulevu and Nakawaqa, complete planting at four sites, complete construction of Somosomo seawall and commence construction work on the sea wall at Navola. The Ministry also plans to produce climate risk and wave action reports for each site.
- Through project extension, the project aims to involve community members in site selection. The successful implementation of nature-based seawall solutions at these sites aims to promote biodiversity conservation as coral and fish populations are expected to be restored.

DATA UNDER IUCN-ORO VALIDATION

"It's a wonderful thing (the Nature-based Seawall at Navolau Village 1) to witness and it's something that we- who are here to witness this- will talk about for a while. It'll protect the village and especially our marine resources/ ecosystem."

Ms. Alena Berauwa, beneficiary of the project in Navolau village, Fiji

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