Fiji Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project

Timeline
2018 - 2020

Funding
USD $1.5 million

Donor Agency
Global Environment Facility (GEF)

Implementing Agency
The Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS)

Partners
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Fiji Government Ministries, Conservation Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)

Description
The Fiji R2R Project intends to preserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, sequester carbon, improve climate resilience and sustain livelihoods through a ridge-to-reef management of six priority water catchments on the two main islands of Fiji. The catchments include Waidina-Rewa, Tuva and Ba on Viti Levu and Labasa, Vunivia and Tunuloa on Vanua Levu. In collaboration with development partners, namely the Government of Fiji and Non-Governmental Organisations, the project will address key environmental issues in an integrated manner. It will bolster Fiji’s national system of marine protected areas with an enhanced and a sustainable system of Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) including greater protection of threatened marine species. It also aims to reduce the negative impacts of land-based activities on the Marine Protected Areas through the development and implementation of integrated catchment management plans. This includes mangrove protection and the adoption of appropriate sustainable land use practices. It also covers riparian restoration in adjoining upstream watersheds as well as terrestrial protected areas, restored and rehabilitated forests.
**Project Objectives**

1. Address critical gaps and needs in biodiversity conservation for terrestrial and marine ecosystems and threatened species including needs for improving financial sustainability for protected areas and locally managed marine area;

2. Enhance ecosystems services in the six catchments, especially increased carbon sequestration in forests, including mangrove/blue carbon;

3. Integrated catchment management approach involving improved management of water, soil and agro-ecosystem resources; and

4. Strengthen knowledge and awareness of R2R management and technologies, and associated environmental and socio-economic benefits within the national stakeholders and local communities

**Highlights / Outputs**

- Two project orientation workshops were conducted internally. The orientation training focused on the overview of the Letter of Agreement (LoA) rules and regulations, budgetary allocations, technical program implementation, financial management, branding and marking, monitoring and evaluation and reporting.
- Modification and adjustment of some existing organisation structures to meet the contractual obligations of the LoA and the Fiji R2R Project requirements.
- The Environment Unit facilitated a gender 101 presentation and planning exercise for the IAS Fiji R2R Project started on 4 December 2018. Staff of Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti also participated in the exercise as partners in one activity allocated to IAS.