

# Documenting Biota of the Colo-i-Suva Forest Reserve, Viti Levu, Fiji

Year

Donors

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Leading Organisation

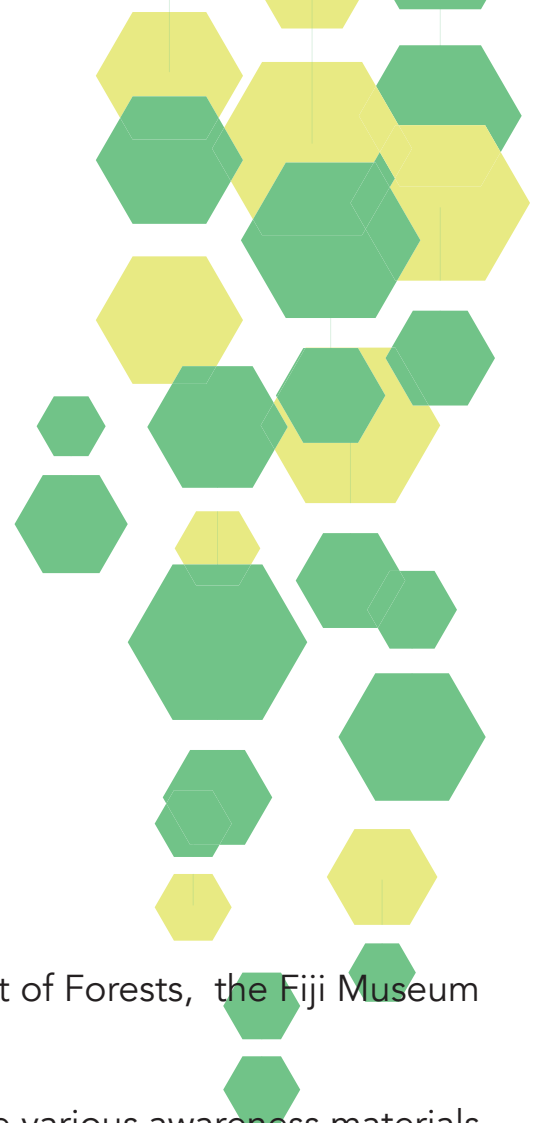
The Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS)

Partners

The project will be kindly supported by the Department of Forests, the Fiji Museum and the National Trust of Fiji.

The Department of Forests has the role to distribute the various awareness materials (pamphlets, brochures and field guides) produced by this project. During the project they will ensure that security and safety field protocols are followed by researchers. They will aid in the setting up of the specimen displays and the launching of the education materials.

National Trust of Fiji and the Fiji Museum have a supportive role of awareness and in-kind distribution of the awareness materials produced in the project as well as partners to setting up specimen displays and the national launching of the learning materials.



The Institute of Applied Science (IAS-USP) will manage this project and provide the expertise and personnel for the various taxa in developing the educational materials.



Samples collected from the surveys will be preserved for further identification and possible displays.

## Description

The Colo-i-Suva forest park is a nature reserve established in 1872 and is located 11 km north of Suva. It is one of the most accessible and popular reserves known to the general public and covers 2.5 km<sup>2</sup> of reserved rainforest renowned for tropical flora and birds. The reserve offers a wide range of services to the economic, education and environment sectors and also harbors a relatively undocumented environment with its natural biota. There has been growing interest from visitors, both local and international, tourists and researchers but more so for the inquisitive students both at the secondary and tertiary levels across Fiji's educational institutions.

Currently, what is known about the Colo-i-Suva reserve is a generalisation of plants and animals that inhabit similar, if not the same types of habitats in the adjacent or nearby forests. This project therefore proposes to produce a series of formally compiled booklets of selected biota found in the reserve. These natural groups would be made up of the obvious taxa that can easily be identified by visitors and students to the reserve.

The objectives of this project are to:

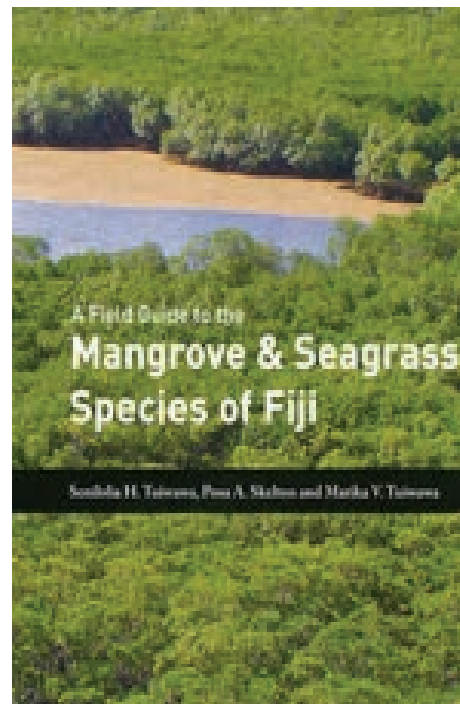
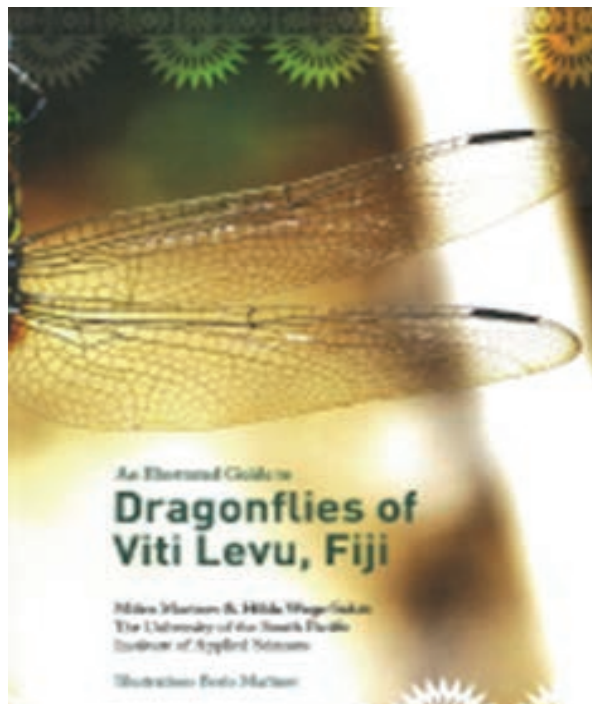
Compile a list of plants and animals from the reserve;

Prepare field guides documenting the reserve's biota for use by visitors;

Promote awareness of the biota that make up the forest of the reserve via pamphlets, brochures and specimen displays with our project partners.

## Project Outputs (if project has been completed)

In fostering this knowledge about the reserve's natural resources, the project aims to produce educational awareness material in the form of booklets, pamphlets,



Above are two such examples of field guides developed by the team and also proposed for this project as a major deliverable.

brochures and specimen displays (tabular and billboards) of the natural biota featured in the reserve. This will be done in collaboration with our project partners.

These educational materials would allow for quick and easy identification of the plants or animals within the reserve with additional information on their biology and ecology, which would increase the interest and enjoyment of people visiting the park. In the long run, it is hoped to increase support for forest reserves and protected areas in Fiji.