

Project benefits

The development and adoption of a **Waimanu River Integrated Watershed Management Plan** that connects effective management of water, land, forest and coastal ecosystems using the Ridge to Reef approach.

Key elements of the Plan which are useful for upscaling future investments in water catchments:

- Priority measures identified and agreed for watershed management;
- Baseline information and data for prioritization, consolidation and mapping of watershed areas;
- Amelioration of key threats to water sources;
- Guidelines for mainstreaming of best-practices in watershed management developed and adopted;
- Enhanced public-private partnership for safeguarding Fiji's critically significant water resources.



The GEF unites 182 countries in partnership with international institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector to address global environmental issues while supporting national sustainable development initiatives.
www.thegef.org



The Pacific Community is an international development organisation with 26 member countries and territories. It is the principal scientific and technical agency proudly supporting development in the Pacific region since 1947.
www.spc.int



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GEF Pacific International Waters Ridge to Reef Project (GEF Pacific IW R2R)

Testing the Integration of
Water, Land, Forest and Coastal
Management to Preserve
Ecosystem Services, Store Carbon,
Improve Climate Resilience and
Sustain Livelihood in Fiji



Introduction

In common with other Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Fiji's land, water and coastal ecological systems are closely inter-connected. Recognising this connectivity is key to fostering effective cross-sectoral coordination in the planning and management of land, water, forest and coastal uses by integrating fresh water watershed management with coastal area management.

In Pacific SIDS, such integrated approaches to freshwater and coastal area management have been termed 'Ridge to Reef' to emphasize the inter-connections between the natural and social systems from the mountain 'ridges' of volcanic islands, through coastal watersheds and habitats, and across coastal lagoons to the fringing 'reef' environments associated with most Pacific SIDS. For low-lying atolls and islands, the same concept of Ridge to Reef is the entire land-sea interface and with specific connectivity across land, water and coastal areas.

Inherent in the approach is the philosophy of cross-sectoral coordination in the planning and management of fresh water use, sanitation, wastewater treatment and pollution control, sustainable land use and forestry practices, balancing coastal livelihoods and biodiversity conservation, hazard risk reduction and climate variability and change. Similarly, the integration of communities, stakeholders, and national governments within such a cross-sectoral planning framework is described by Pacific SIDS as a 'Community to Cabinet' approach.

Fiji is an independent island State comprised of over 300 islands, and home to over 850,000 people – one of the most populated in the South Pacific. These islands form a complex group of high islands of volcanic origin, along with reefs, atolls, sand cays and raised coral islands, and rich biodiversity.

Over the years, human activities have affected the quality of water. Examples: industrial waste and sewage, catchment development, urban areas growth, and mismanaged land practices.

Fiji's GEF R2R IW project will focus on testing and enhancing integrated management of a series of forested watersheds to protect land, water, forest and biodiversity resources, maintain carbon stock, and protect coastal mangrove and coral reef marine protected areas (MPA).



Waimanu Catchment, Rewa River and Delta

The Waimanu River, located in the Nausori-Naitasiri topography is one of three rivers draining large amounts of fresh water into the Rewa River and into the sea. Fresh water from the upper Wainibuku, Wainimala and Waibau rivers flows into the Waimanu River, which in turn flows directly into the Rewa River and Delta. The Waimanu River is situated in an ideal central location to be a major source of drinking water for the entire island of Viti-Levu.



Environmental challenges

Threats from land-based sources of pollution, derived primarily from sedimentation (soil erosion, agriculture, forestry, and poor land-use practices), urban run-off, agro-chemicals and solid waste.

Demonstration activities

- Strengthening capacity for watershed assessment, mapping and planning.
- Reducing environmental stress targets on municipal waste and aquifer pollution, terrestrial and wetland habitats, catchment protection measures by implementation of priority measures and best practices reflected in the Watershed Management Plan.
- Developing the enabling environment for the replication and scaling-up of best practices in watershed management as set out in a Watershed Management Plan.