



Pacific R2R Programme Workshop

Most Significant Change

The GEF Pacific IW R2R Project - PNG



Name of Person recording story	Senson Mark, IW R2R PNG Project Manager
Name of storyteller	Gaudi Sibona, Pari-Taurama LLG, NCD, PNG
Date of recording	29 th of June 2019
When did it happen	Since the Project began in 2016

My future is safe now

I am the first born of the Sibona family, my father is the Principle Land Owner of the Tuna Bay Land. I left Grade 6, and after aimlessly roaming the streets, I came across one of my uncles who was working for East-West Transport Company. I became a handy-man with the company learning in a workshop. I self-taught myself to be what I am today- a Motor mechanic, Panel Beater and can also do metal fabrication. I left job with the company in 2013 after 15 years, and has been free lancing until I came across the IW R2R PNG Project in 2016/17 during the Landowners Consultation Workshop at Pari Women’s Development Association hall. My interest for the Project aroused, and wanted to be involved in the project. I attended the training conducted by UPNG on Ecosystem relations. Most stuff were highly technical, but I could understand the values the entire Clan, including my family’s was dependent on how we managed the Area, the mangroves, sea grasses and reef and everything thing that lived in it.



Gaudi Sibona tending to the Mangrove Nursery at Tuna Bay.



Gaudi Sibona contributing to discussions with village elders for the Conservation Easement Agreement between CEPA and Tuna Bay Landowners at Pari Village.

After being involved with the project since 2016, I have begun to notice changes now, in the attitude of landowners in selling lands close to the sea front, and reaction of settlers who dwell within the Project vicinity. People are no longer throwing rubbish into the environment, and begin to take responsibility over the mangroves. These reactions motivate me further.

I want the fish to come back, I have to do what I can to help restore the habitats. I am happy now the Project has come on board, because that is my only hope, and that of my family and clan. Through the Project my future is safe now, and that of my children. With the training and regular mentoring provided by the Project, I will do anything as landowner now to support the project.

biodiversity possessed to humans, us. The livelihood of the entire Clan, including my family’s was dependent on how we managed the Area, the mangroves, sea grasses and reef and everything thing that lived in it.

I asked the Project Manager to have me included in any activities in the Project. I am now involved in the Waste Management, awareness and mangrove rehabilitation through the construction of the Mangrove Nursery and the actual generation of nurseries for the Project.

I watched as our land, mangroves and the sea were being ripped apart by outsiders for settlement and other commercial activities. We used to catch a lot of fish, crabs and Oyster, including Tuna which come in every year from April to November. I now can not catch many, sometimes, I catch nothing. I am beginning to suffer now; my entire family is suffering. Our income has dropped dramatically, and we can not catch enough fish to eat or for other social, cultural obligations. I regret now, and angry at the same time for my family and clan for selling those land to outsiders who are mercilessly destroying the bay that has supported our clan for thousands of years.