

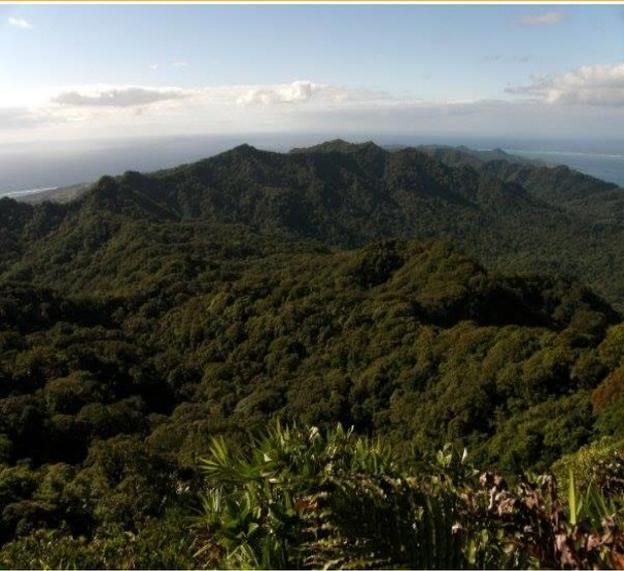
# Lomani Gau: Community Based Climate Change Adaptation for Gau Island, Fiji



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# Natural Capital on Gau Island, Fiji





**unique biodiversity to be maintained**



The first Fiji Petrel to be photographed at sea (off Gau Island, Fiji, May 09).  
The Tubenoses project copyright © H. Shirihai



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## Rural Development Approaches Over Time....

- ▶ Modernisation – transforms traditional societies into modern cash based ones using Western methods, expertise and capital
- ▶ Integrated Rural Development – coordinated approaches to address rural poverty and related problems
- ▶ Needs Based Management – securing basic human requirements such as food shelter, clothing, employment and security through economic development
- ▶ Sustainable Development - pursuing economic, social and political and ecological development while stressing intra and inter generational equity. Gender, Local Participation and Empowerment are emphasised
- ▶ Ecosystem Based Management
- ▶ Green/Blue Growth



# State of Environment Resources on Gau



**degraded natural habitats to be rehabilitated**





**coastal development challenges**

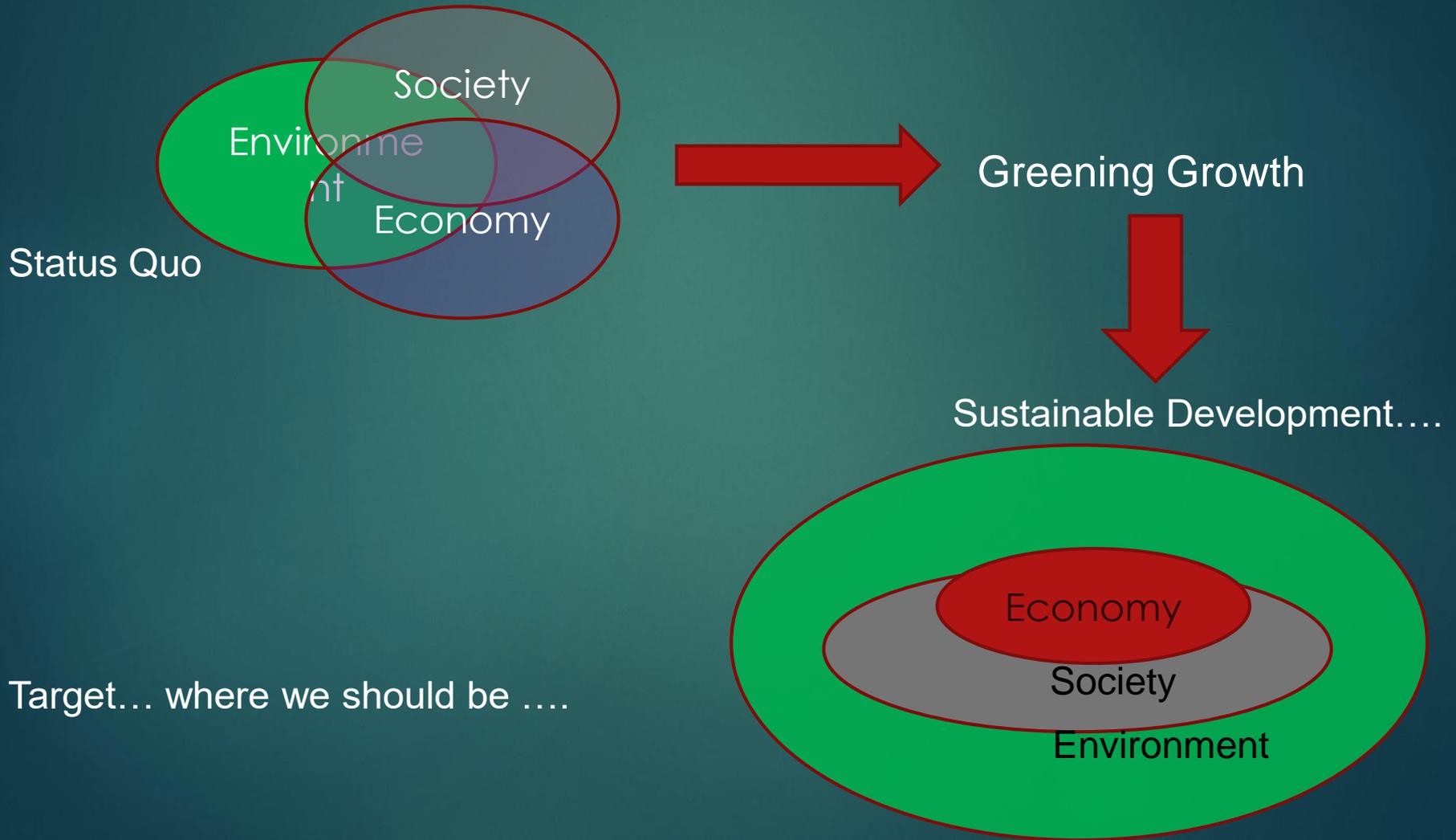


## Major Threats to be Addressed

- ▶ Weak and poor governance
- ▶ Invasive Alien Species
- ▶ Food sources used as income source
- ▶ Alteration and loss of natural habitats
- ▶ Damaged watersheds and water sources
- ▶ Unsustainable resource uses
- ▶ Rural development activities
- ▶ Sewage and waste management



# Connecting Humans to the Environment



# Articulating Sustainable Island Development

- ▶ establish effective governance at all levels
- ▶ organise relevant training and capacity building
- ▶ formulate appropriate sustainable development plans, guidelines
- ▶ protect water catchment to provide safe water
- ▶ reduce habitat change
- ▶ control and manage invasive alien species and find useful uses
- ▶ promote organic products
- ▶ mainstream waste management
- ▶ implement disaster risk reduction measures
- ▶ establish and strengthen institutions
- ▶ encourage partnerships and collaboration
- ▶ secure new sources of livelihood
- ▶ promote traditional knowledge and customary practices
- ▶ protect island's natural forests, riverine and marine habitats.





Engaged and supported local resources owners to be resource stewards



# Nature based solutions for Sustainability and Well Being



Community-based waste management activities

# Composting toilet in Malawai

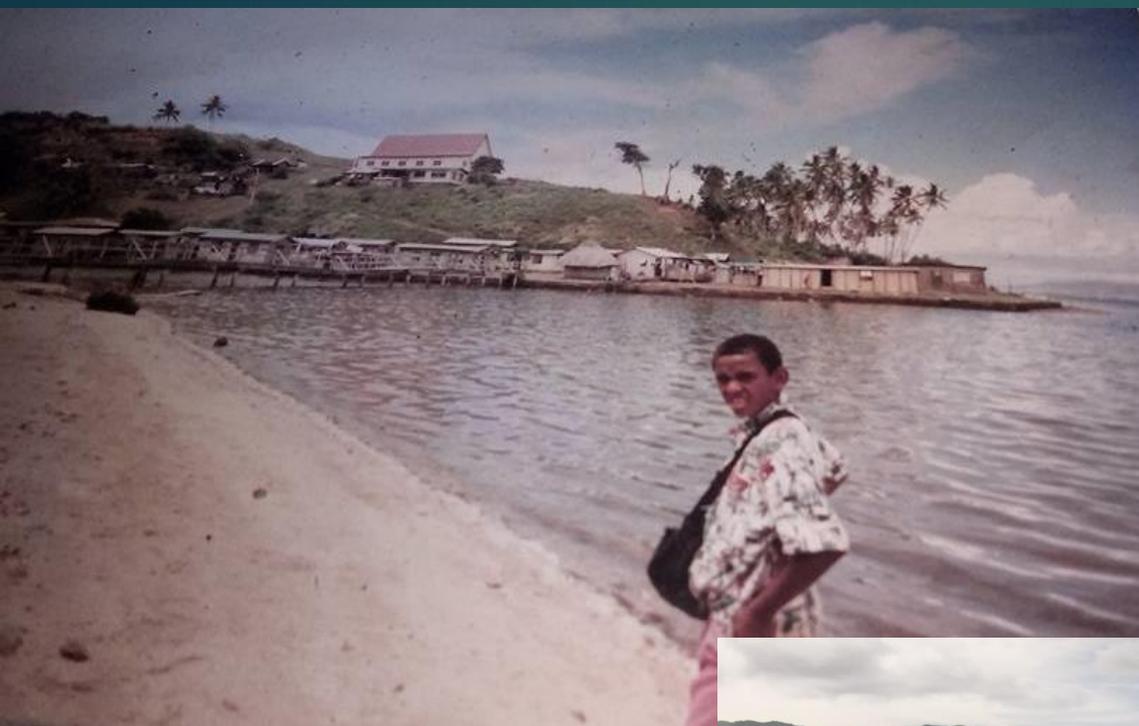


# Coastal rehabilitation in Naovuka



# Cultured mangroves stabilize, aggregate sand and provide fisheries





Transformation of  
Malawai...  
then and now...



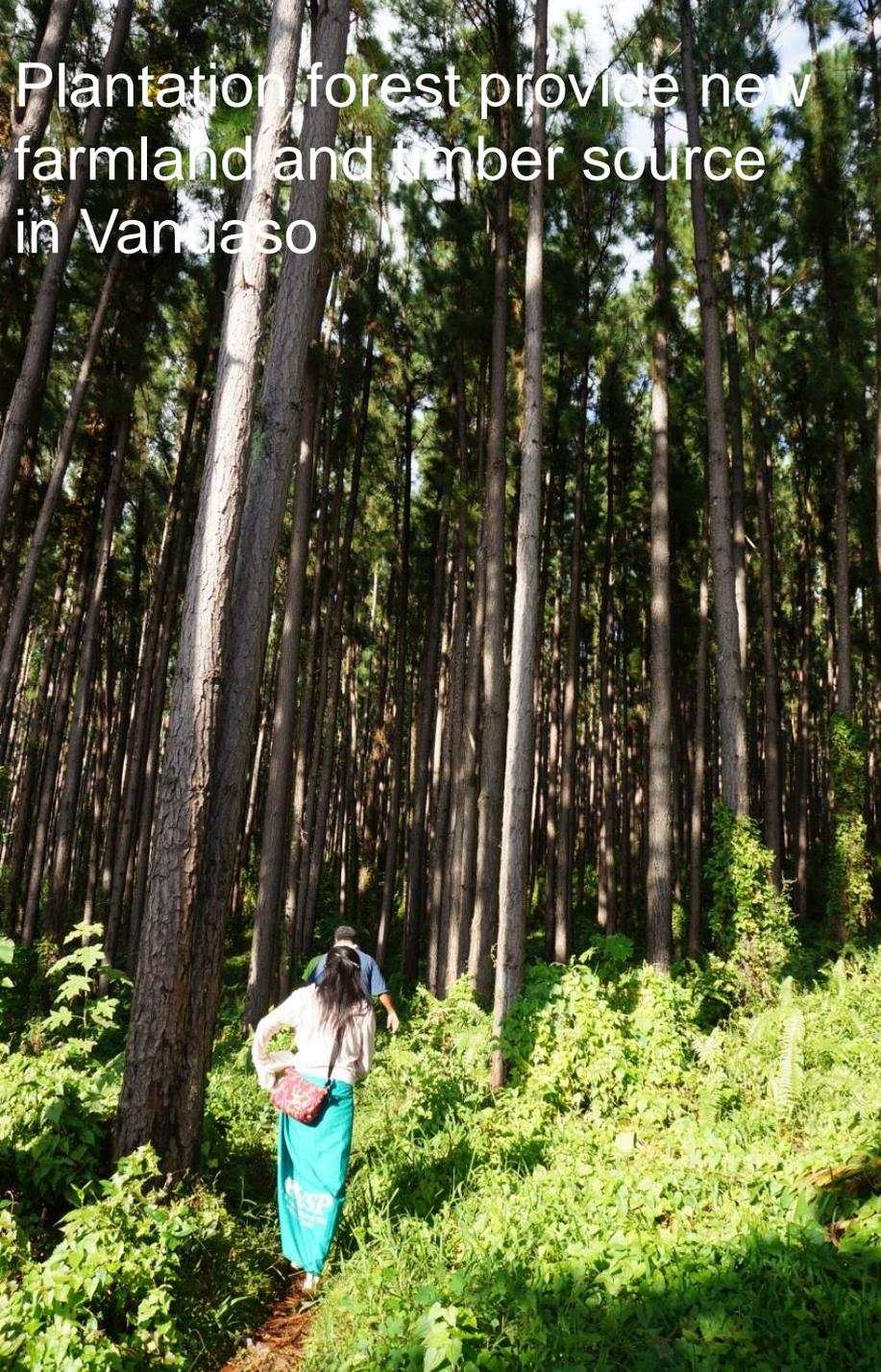
# Rehabilitation of coastal vegetation in Yadua...



# Short and long term sources of livelihood



Plantation forest provide new farmland and timber source in Vandaso





Multi-cropping – indigenous farming practices for food security in Navukailagi





Mobile sawmill to harness timber from plantation forests





Solar lights and smokeless stoves ...renewable energy sources are promoted

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# Community-based small scale development activities



# Rehabilitation and reforestation of coastal areas for long term sources of livelihood



Mats... a main source of income for women





# Fisheries development and management supported by JICA



# Seaweed farming enriches fishing ground and provides income





Development support from JICA



# Vunilagi Demonstration Centre in Malawai







# Community-based action in Fiji's Gau Island: a model for the Pacific?

## **ABSTRACT**

Internationally, Community-based adaptation (CBA) is recognised as a promising approach to help vulnerable populations adjust to climate change. However, with pilot projects in their infancy documented experience for Pacific islands remains scarce. This limits the ability of the region – faced with persisting development challenges and predicted significant climate impacts – to learn from and build on previous experiences, and develop robust responses to climate change.

Drawing on qualitative fieldwork on a remote outer island in Fiji, the paper aims to address this shortcoming. By using a community-based initiative in response to environmental challenges and unsustainable development as a proxy, it interrogates the potential usefulness of the CBA framework for the Pacific and identifies potential strengths and weaknesses. Sketching out the process and its outcomes, the paper shows how the initiative has resulted in a diversity of strategies, ranging from pollution control measures, to improved governance of resources and community participation in decision making, to livelihood and income diversification.

Findings indicate that CBA could have a lot of potential for building more resilient communities in the face of climate change and other pressures associated with modernising Pacific societies. However to be effective, interventions need to be sensitive to dynamics of village governance, social rules and protocols, establish trust, use traditional means of communication and address people's development aspirations. The conclusions provide a reflection on the CBA framework in general, as well as make concrete suggestions for practitioners on how the framework could be usefully implemented in the Pacific context.