Community-based adaptation in the Pacific: the Lomani Gau initiative

Call to Action in the Pacific Islands

- Pacific Islands Regional Ocean Policy
- Vava'u Declaration of 2007 called for effective management of coastal fisheries to support food security and sustainable livelihoods
- Apia Policy followed to harness benefits of coastal fisheries
- Similar themes embodied in Joint FFA/SPC report - The Future of Pacific Island Fisheries; IUCN’s call for action; the Strategic Plan of SPC’s FAME Division; SAMOA Pathway outcomes; MSG’s Roadmap for inshore fisheries management and sustainable development 2014–2023; PIF Secretariat’s Framework for Pacific Oceanscape; and 2014 Palau Declaration: The Ocean: Life and Future
- SPC’s new song for coastal fisheries – pathways to change – The Noumea Strategy which emphasizes community-based ecosystem approaches to fisheries management (CEAFM)
- FFA offering technical assistance to PICs
- WCPFC managing tuna resources in the High Seas - CMMs

Gau Island – a biodiversity hotspot to be protected

- Unique biodiversity to be maintained
Challenges to be Addressed in Gau

- achieve ‘measurable sustainable development’
- improve ‘the quality of life for all’
- attain peace, harmony and security
- improve economic prosperity
- empower and engage local communities
- promote excellence and innovation in sustainable rural development
- integrate customary and modern practices for sustainable development
- protect natural resources
- rehabilitate degraded environment resources

Challenges in Gau

degraded natural habitats to be rehabilitated

Lomani Gau Rural Development Approach

- Improve governance
- Empower and support local communities
- Meet people’s aspiration
- Articulate ‘measurable sustainable development’
- Integrate customary and modern sustainable development practices
- Enhance economic prosperity
- Properly use and protect natural resources
- Rehabilitate degraded environment resources
- Improve ‘the quality of life for all’
- Promote innovation in sustainable rural development
Re thinking Human Relations with Environment

Status Quo

Greening Growth

Sustainable Development…. 

Target… where we should be …. 

Accomplishments in Gau

- MMAs in all 16 villages
- People empowered, supported and organised – Lomani Gau, youth, women, rural development and livelihood initiatives, ban destructive fishing practices and wildfires, rehabilitation of coastal and riverine vegetation
- Enhanced human capacity through training
- Set up institutions and support champions and role models
- Support self helped activities
- Enhance community-based effort through financial and technical advice
- Get people to invest in the future
- Secure external funding for community-development
- Promote sustainable technologies
- Publicise, share and promote the experience

Improving People’s Resilience and Lives

Planted mangroves to address coastal erosion and enhance fisheries

It’s all about people…they have to be taught and supported to take care of their longterm wellbeing and aspirations
Innovative approaches to enhance marine resources management

Seaweed farming: a potential sustainable source of livelihood

Biological solution to coastal protection and rehabilitation

Sandalwood farming: a new source of money
alternative sources of income, sandalwood planting, mat selling, small business and ginger farming...

appropriate sustainable development technologies to improve the lives of people...composting toilet, renewable energy...solar light, traditional bure and improved cooking facilities
Lomani Gau Activities, Gau

• Vision: Happy and peaceful communities living in a healthy environment in Gau

• Mission: Articulate sustainable community based development that meets the present and future needs of people and environment in Gau

• Objectives:

  Strengthen Governance through Planning and Implementation of Sustainable Development
  - Support and strengthen Gau Island Council
  - Support and strengthen Tikana Councils
  - Facilitate implementation of Village plans
  - Offer relevant training in planning, time management, financial management, values, holistic development
  - Support youth and women initiatives and activities

  Protect and Enhance Natural Environment
  - Lease of moutane forest reserve for protection and ecotourism
  - Rehabilitation coastal and riverine habitats
  - Reduce and repair deforested land
  - Enhance marine-managed areas throughreweding
  - Improve waste management
  - Care for domesticated animals

  Establish commercial activities in harmony with natural environment
  - Provide farm roads for all islanders who offer land
  - Support sustainable fishing ventures in Qarani/Vione
  - Promote proper animal husbandry (Pigs, sheep, cows)
  - Promote use of machines in a well-managed environment
  - Establish marketing Centre
  - Operate Annual Agricultural Shows
  - Set up sustainable transport network

Vunilagi (Horizon) Demonstration Centre, Gau

• Vision: Happy and peaceful communities living in a healthy environment

• Mission: Articulate sustainable community based development that meets the present and future needs of people and environment

• Objectives:

  Establish commercial activities in harmony with natural environment
  - Animal husbandry (Pigs, sheep, cows)
  - Crop farming & Value adding (Yanua, Yos, Yaqona, Dalo, Yari, Pari, Daku, Cassies, coconut)
  - Machine hire (Sawmill, tractor & pump)
  - Accommodation of Scholars, researchers and eco tourists
  - Sustainable transport

  Demonstrate the use of sustainable technologies
  - Tunnelling (Environmentally friendly, Compact)
  - Landscaping (Native forests, reserves)
  - Waste treatment
  - Protection of habitats
  - Renewable energy
  - Water treatment
  - Construction (Traditional & modern)

  Provide learning Centre
  - Traditional practices & knowledge (sawing, building, farming, disaster preparedness, food security)
  - Information sharing through village plans
  - Offer study facilities to scholars as well as villagers
  - Practical experience
  - Introduce innovative solutions to address pertinent issues
  - Accommodation of Scholars & researchers

  Assist landowners and villagers
  - Employment (permanent & casual)
  - New skills & opportunities (Management of time, finance and resources and their relations)
  - Encourage behavioral change

  Improve waste management
  - Care for domesticated animals

  Enhance marine-managed areas throughreweding
  - Care for domesticated animals

  Set up sustainable transport network
Publications to Share the Stories