



Case Study: from resilience vision to actions: Laucala

The Climate Resilient Islands approach rests on interlinked activities where communities identify their resilience vision and picture as part of their Community Resilience Profile and then make plans for resilience activity pathways related to that vision. This case study is part of a series that identifies threads of interconnection throughout the process in each community, as part of documenting the value of the process and sharing stories with other partners. Each case study shows how the community resilience vision and picture guides learning from the resilience profile to identify the most important resilience actions.

Community context

Degraded forest landscapes around the inland community of Laucala, Fiji, have decreased biodiversity and declining fish stocks have put pressure on livelihoods. Degraded forests have also contributed to the contamination of the local river and increased flooding risk. There is a need for more resilient agriculture that includes diversity of crops and contributes less to biodiversity loss.

Community Resilience Picture and Vision

Our Christian faith gives the community resilience. Maintaining faith and vanua is important. Resilience comes with good sources of livelihoods; improved water supply for growing population; preparation for disaster, including a new hall for evacuations, and better education for the children of the community.

The community's resilience picture is of the nearby mountain, *Ului Nagaga*. When one stands on that mountain, they are able to see all the valleys and other mountainous regions of Tikina Wailevu. The mountains shelter the village from strong cyclones.



The community's vision for resilience also considers the importance of a good sources of

livelihood and is further supported by the resilience picture of the fertile mountainous regions of *Ului Nagaga* which overlooks the whole Wailevu District. The term *Tuarewa*, the traditional title of the Laucala village, means to be lifted higher than all others or reaching the peak, which can symbolically mean to reach the peak of success or to be triumphant in the face of adversities like climate change.

Three most important indicators:

The community chose the following three most important indicators to guide their resilience pathway choices. All three relate to the example pathway of building resilient agriculture.

The community acknowledges their close connections with the land, which is partially explained by the concept of vanua.

- Knowledge – Vanua, relationship of community to land, traditional knowledge
- Physical security – crops and plantations easily recover from cyclones
- Connections – Vanua

Resilience strategy: resilient farming system

The community has chosen the pathway of a resilient farming system. With the assistance of the CRI Fiji Team, the communities have been assisted with farming tools, resilient crops, vegetable seedlings assistance, organic farming training, and Sustainable Land Management awareness through the Ministry of Agriculture, a key stakeholder in this activity. Farming as a Business training is also planned for this year, increasing access of farmers to markets.

Use of a resilient farming system will lead to community resilience through the following actions:

1. Strengthening of community income generation will allow the community to be self-reliant financially when it comes to community projects like an evacuation centre or a purchase of a fishing vessel, which the community have been wanting to purchase.
2. The community carries out village obligations communally. Farming is no exception, and the community has allocated land where farming will be done to cater for community projects.
3. With the vast land available to Laucala village, each household is also allocated farmland to farm and cater for family needs like income, food security and meeting important religious and social obligations.
4. The resilient farming system pathway activities achieve the programme outcome of enhanced community resilience through nature-based livelihoods and food security.

The primary beneficiaries are the community members, as sustainable farming will ensure they have agricultural produce to feed their families, and which can be sold to generate income for personal and collective needs.

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The youths of the community are empowered through this pathway. The women are also empowered through the handing over of vegetable seedlings suitable for backyard gardening.

Strengthening traditional knowledge

Previously, the community has focused on fishing, and the move to agriculture has revitalised the traditional knowledge of solesolevaki or working together while also giving the elders the opportunity to teach the youths traditional farming techniques used to plant yams and taro.

Absorb, Adapt, Transform framework

The CRI programme operates on the understanding that community resilience can be conceptualized as a three-level structure, incorporating the community's ability to absorb, adapt, or transform. Absorption utilizes community skills and structures to bounce back after negative events. Adaptation requires adjustments to a community's ways of living, sometimes with external help. Transformation almost always requires varying levels of external help to significantly change societal structures and habits in order to remain resilient.



The community established the following strengths and capacities for the pathway involving resilient agriculture:

- Absorb strengths – vibrant youths, vast land available for agriculture, river system as access point for fishing expeditions
- Adapt strengths – Fishing is still carried out by the community through a boat hire arrangement with a local business owner
- Transform strengths – being an active fishing community, Laucala has now shifted its focus to farming for three reasons:
 1. Fishing is proving to be costly as the village does not have any fishing boats.
 2. The recent increase in price of agricultural commodities like taro has encouraged the youths to focus more on farming.
 3. CRI Fiji's interventions in organic farming practices, farming tools distribution and resilience crop distribution has also strengthened the community's focus towards farming.

Strategy Pathways	ACTION 1	ACTION 2	ACTION 3	ACTION 4
Strategy – Use of resilient farming systems	Farming as a Business Training <i>Who: Community members</i>	Grant assistance for farming equipment <i>Who: Community members</i>	Set up of a rural business hub (village cooperative set up) <i>Who: Cooperative members</i>	Arrange for markets of agricultural produce <i>Who: Cooperative members</i>

Planning pathways are aligned with three outcome areas: nature-based solutions (NbS), food security and disaster risk reduction (DRR). These are at the core of the programme and align to grant seeking activities.

Additionally, communities plan to incorporate traditional knowledge into pathways.

Nature-based Solutions: Resilient agriculture adopted in the community includes more organic practices and the intent is that this agriculture will contribute to more biodiversity, less soil degradation and less contamination of local water sources with agricultural runoff.

Food security will be increased by planting more resilient crops, which will both provide local foods and income to better contribute to food security. Additionally, the promotion of good land management practices will contribute to sustaining local ecosystems.

Overall, resilient agriculture will contribute to disaster risk reduction by increasing the ability of farming systems to bounce back after storms or droughts, as well as provide funds for disaster preparedness, which has been a high priority for the community.