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ECOSYSTEM BASED CLIMATE ADAPTATION PROJECT (ECAP)

Community's Story

Official Newsletter of Ecosystem-Based Climate Adaptation Project

Disclaimer:

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Why climate change?

Climate Change is inevitable and Fiji is vulnerable just like any other Pacific country. In the aim to build socioeconomic resilience to climate change in Fiji, Live and Learn Environmental Education Fiji, in partnership with relevant government stakeholders, facilitated a two-week training in the Northern part of Fiji, to build capacities and capabilities of youths to address the underlying causes of Climate Change vulnerability.

While the training was focused on youth, it was not limited to other community members. This enabled the youths and community members to identify their strength, risks and the needs to formulate and implement sustainable responses that are inclusive and adaptive to Climate Change.



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Community's Story

Rauriko Village, Macuata Province

Ms Litiana Buasa walked approximately 2 kilometers from Vitina to Rauriko village to be part of the Climate Change Youth Leadership Training.

Ms Buasa was overwhelmed with the information she received and she wished her Mataqali from Vitina would have been part of the Ecosystem based Climate Adaptation Project. She mentioned that she count herself fortunate to participant in the training to learn about ecosystem links, and i.e., understanding cultural totems and the relationship it has to the environment. Ms Buasa added that her village (Vitina) is witnessing climate change. Places that never use to be flooded before are now being susceptible to flooding and wetland areas are now desiccated. She was glad to know that simple methods such as planting trees, protecting

the forest are ways to buffer impact of Climate Change and natural disaster.

Ms Buasa concluded that the information she has captured will be shared with her village members in the hope to make a difference to the ecosystem.



Photo by LLEE Group Photo- Vatukuca Village Participants (Bottom Left - Ms Litiana Buasa)



Kavula Village, Buva Province

Mr Meli Turagacati recalled how Tropical Yasa (TC Yasa) invaded their village in the year 2020. The 75-year-old man of Mataqali Navulai in Kavula village told the story with so much grief when TC Yasa crushed their village hall that the community devoted so much time and money for its construction. He sorrowfully mentioned how their crops and vegetables were damaged and that the village had to wait for government assistance for food. In spite of the horror faced that night, the villagers knew that the assistance would not come in until later in the week.



Photo

Above: Meli Turagacati pointing at the foundation of the hall

(Bottom Right): Peni Bavia

Villagers hunt for food in the wild to feed families. Infants who were bottle fed were given coconut juice or given to other mothers in the village to breast feed until road was cleared up. Continuous rain covered the village and left debris in and around the village.

The heavy down pour caused a major landslide on the main road and it took

DISMAC officials number of days to clear the road to reach the village. Few days after the rain eased, villagers started visiting their farms and harvest whatever was left and edible. Mr Turagacati mentioned that the community counted lucky stars as there was no fatality from the devastating cyclone.



Mr. Peni Bavia, a 33-year-old (pictured right) of Kavula village stated that after the training he has thought of multiple ways to minimize the impact of flooding and vulnerability to climate change. He mentioned to start with small projects by youth groups to clean up village by clearing the drains and non biodegradable materials that end up in rivers and creeks.

Secondly, re-emphasize elders to work towards leasing virgin forest for Conservation with ECAP. He spoke passionately about the ecosystem and said "the only way my son will be able to use the resources tomorrow is because of my action today and that is to protect and conserve the forest".

"The only way my son will be able to use the resources tomorrow is because of my action today...."

MR PENI BAVIA OF KAVULA



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