



EBM KUBULAU BULLETIN



VOL. 11. JANUARY 2010

Ni sa bula vinaka! Welcome to the eleventh edition of the WCS EBM Kubulau Bulletin. The bulletin brings together news and results from ongoing activities by the Wildlife Conservation Society within the Kubulau area.

TERRESTRIAL PROTECTED AREAS CONSULTATION

From January 18th-20th, the WCS team consulted three villages in Kubulau on mechanisms to strengthen the existing terrestrial protected areas. The three villages consulted included: 1) Kilaka; 2) Nadivakarua; and 3) Natokalou.

The consultation meeting was part of the WCS teams efforts to save Kubulau's intact forest habitat because: 1) the Kubulau forest has a lot of unique species (44% only found in Fiji and 4% only found on Vanua Levu); 2) prevents soil erosion and landslides; 3) prevents downstream flooding; and 4) keeps freshwater clean.

At the first two villages, the mechanism of gazettement nature reserves, community forest parks, and water catchments were presented.

In summary, part III, section 7 of the 1992 Forest Decree states that 'nature reserve is managed by the Conservator of Forest for exclusive purpose of permanent preservation of their environment, including flora, fauna, soil, and water'. The steps involved in declaring nature reserve includes: 1) community agreement and defining of boundary; 2) involvement of Department of Forestry for surveying of the site-coasts paid by the government; 3) survey of the area by the Department of Forestry, 4) Forestry Board advised on the findings and recommendations; 5) based on the findings and recommendations, the Forestry Board will approach the Minister who has the power to declare sites as Reserves. After a site has been de-



Mataqali participants from Kilaka attending the community consultation meeting.

clared, any activities in the reserved area will required prior approval of the Conservator of Forest through the issuance of licenses.

Similar to the nature reserves, community forest parks can also be set up to serve a similar purpose. Community forest parks are different from nature reserve by: 1) the administration and management of the protected area is not under the jurisdiction of the Conservation of Forest but with a committee (e.g. National Trust of Fiji or Protected Areas Committee (PAC)). The community forest parks are flexible in terms of conditions attached and parks can also be used for conducting Eco-Tourism ventures. However, none of these have yet been established in Fiji. In the meantime, PAC is working to develop new legislation which could provide recognition to community conserved areas.

From the consultations, it was apparent that most of the communities were interested in securing their forest under the Community Forest Park category and the WCS team will be presenting the communities concerns and questions to the PAC members on 29th of January. The outcomes of this meeting will be relayed back to the communities through ongoing meetings and newsletters.

KEY EBM MESSAGES:

Preservation of functional integrity of Fiji's ecoscapes through community based management.

- Successful EBM relies on cross sectoral planning and management
- Inland and lowland communities need to manage resources together
- EBM protects habitat for all stages of life
- Improving land and fishing practices helps protect natural resources
- Public health and livelihoods depend on environmental health

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT COURSE	2
KRMC PROPOSAL SUBMITTED	2
EBM GUIDE FOR TROPICAL PACIFIC	3
COMMUNITY QUIRIES PRESENTED TO POWPA	3
KNOW YOUR INVASIVES: MYNAH BIRDS	6
UPCOMING EVENTS	6

ECOSYSTEM BASED MANAGEMENT COURSE

From January, 25 January to 5 February 2010 in Rarotonga, Cook Islands., there was an ecosystem based management (EBM) course held in the Cook Islands which aimed at teaching participants about: 1) planning for EBM; 2) operating within the policy and regulatory framework; and 3) sustaining ecosystem based management. This course was attended by participants from Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomons, Tuvalu, Samoa, Vanuatu, and Marshal islands. The Fiji delegates were represented from Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), department of environment, department of fisheries, and Mamanuca environment society.

The short course also taught participants about integrating contemporary and traditional coastal ecosystem management in the Pacific. Most of the learning was based on a case study from Rarotonga, Cook Islands, focusing on lesson learnt from the development of the Takitumu lagoon management plan. This plan was developed to address the threat of sediments from improper land development to the marine system.

This workshop was run by the University of Queensland, Coral Reef Targeted Research (CRTR) program, and the Cook Islands Marine Resources Institutional Strengthening Project (CIMRIS).



A group photo for the participants at the recent ecosystem-based management course (source <http://www.cinews.co.ck/2010/February/Wed10/environment.htm>).

KRMC PROPOSAL SUBMITTED

THE GOAL OF ECOSYSTEM-BASED MANAGEMENT IS TO MAINTAIN AN ECOSYSTEM IN A HEALTHY, PRODUCTIVE AND RESILIENT CONDITION SO THAT IT CAN PROVIDE THE SERVICES HUMANS WANT AND NEED.



The patrol vessel that has been given by PCDF to help monitor Kubulau qoliqoli.

In 2008, Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF) helped KRMC secure funding through its Mainstreaming of Rural Development Initiative (MORDI) to purchase a boat to improve monitoring of the district's *qoliqoli*. Since then, the Fiji Islands Marine Safety Authority (FIMSA) has trained village representatives and community fish wardens as boat captains.

During the February 2009 Management planning workshop that was held in Namalata, KRMC identified the need to improve the effectiveness of its monitoring patrols by equipping the boat with a marine radio, binoculars, high-powered light and a waterproof camera. To assist with land-based monitoring and reporting to police, KRMC also proposed to install a second radio in a village with a clear view of the *qoliqoli* and a third at the District officers office.

Since then, the EBM team under the guidance of a consultant, Pepe Clarke, have developed a proposal that has been submitted to Global Greengrants Fund (GGF) to secure funding for this purpose.

The outcome of the proposal will be

known by mid May 2010. If successful, the KRMC will be able to improve its monitoring the *qoliqoli*.

Enforcement is one of the biggest challenges to community based resource management for Fiji. This is partly due to the fact that the *qoliqoli* areas can be very large and communities often do not have enough resources for monitoring.

In Macuata, the Tui Macuata Ratu Aisea said in an interview to the Fiji Times that 'poaching had been the communities' greatest battle in the *qoliqoli* area'. He said that he thanked the police department and the Department of Fisheries for their involvement in fighting poaching.

"The police, fisheries department, and the village fish wardens have helped fight illegal fishing activities" said Ratu Asea. He further added "the committee has been observing fishermen fishing in Macuata *qoliqoli* but having license from Bua and although these activities have decreased there is no guarantee that it will completely stop".

EBM GUIDE FOR TROPICAL PACIFIC

The WCS Fiji team will be releasing an Ecosystem Based Management (EBM) guide for the EBM practitioners in the Tropical Western Pacific, which is based on lesson learnt from four years of researching and implementing ecosystem based management in the Western Pacific.

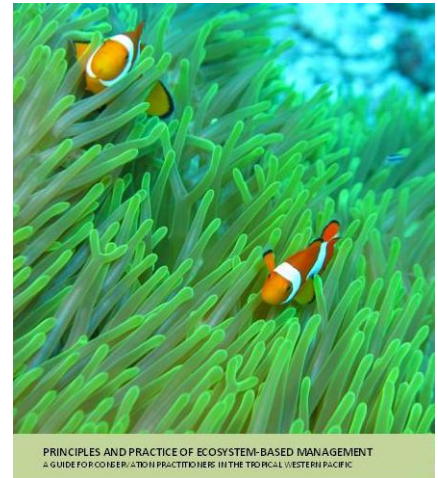
The guide is designed for use by conservation practitioners, particularly in developing nations where EBM approaches used in industrialized countries may not be feasible or appropriate. It shares experiences with implementing EBM from Fiji (Kubulau and Macuata), Indonesia

and Palau.

Key benefits and lessons from EBM implementation:

- Ecosystem-based adaptation is a cost-effective strategy for reducing vulnerability to climate change
- EBM offers mechanisms to increase protected areas across land and sea.
- EBM highlights the synergy between community-based and scientifically guided conservation and resource management.

This guide will be launched in early 2010.



The cover of the newly compiled EBM guide

COMMUNITY QUIRIES PRESENTED TO NATIONAL PROTECTED AREAS COMMITTEE (PAC)

Following the Kubulau communities for the terrestrial protected areas, the WCS team presented the communities queries and questions to the national Protected Area Committee (PAC). PAC has been formed under the 2005 Environmental Management Act, as advisory body for the National Environmental Council (NEC), to prioritize areas for protection across Fiji.

Some of the main functions of PAC include:

- advising the NEC on protected area policies and priorities,
- supporting the establishment of an adequate and representative national protected area system, consistent with national and international policy commitments
- identifying actions for establishment and effective management of protected areas, to be implemented by government, non-government organizations and the private sector,
- identifying options for resource protected area management, and to support efforts to secure finan-



Healthy forests (right) have to be protected to ensure that vital ecosystem processes are maintained for humans, such as clean freshwater for drinking and washing (left).

cial resources for protected area management activities.

The WCS team presented to PowPA members the community feedback from the consultation which concerned the current legislation in regards to listing terrestrial protected areas and the potential role of PAC as an administrator for nomination of Community Forest Parks.

One of the main concerns of the PowPA members were that when nature reserves are set up the administrative body becomes the Conservator of Forests. "The government does not have the resources to implement and manage forest reserves" said Marika Tuwawa, curator of the South Pacific Regional Herbarium. One of the other main outcomes of this meeting was the unclarity of process involved with setting up protected areas. Therefore, the EBM team will be working closely with PowPA members in trying to map steps that are involved with setting up of terrestrial protected areas.

"It is important and necessary that these genuine concerns have been highlighted" said PowPA chairperson, Elizabeth Erasito.

FIJI ECOSYSTEM BASED
MANAGEMENT (EBM) = HEALTHY
PEOPLE, PROCESSES AND SYSTEMS

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CHECK US
OUT!

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The mynah bird (photo from <http://10000birds.com/a-myna-problem.htm>)

ONGOING AND UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Feb** -presentation of EBM plan template to external stakeholders in Suva.
- **Mar** –Fijian translation and printing of EBM guide.
- **Mar** -presentation of reef habitats to Kubulau communities and distribution of posters.
- **Apr—May**-Kubulau biological monitoring.

STAFF FAREWELL

In February, Thomas Tui left the WCS team to be part of Sea-Web, an international nonprofit organization to raise awareness of the growing threats to the ocean and its living resources. Although Thomas will not be with WCS, he will continue to support the community based resource management work in Fiji.



CONDOLENCES

WCS team is sending their condolences for the untimely passing away of Buli Navatu, Ratu Semi Butulovo, and the wife of the late previous Tui Kubulau Adi Vilomena Raranadi.



KNOW YOUR INVASIVES: MYNAH BIRD

The common mynah (*Acridotheres tristis*) is found in Kubulau and is known for its loud noise. Mynah have been introduced into tropical and subtropical oceanic islands around the world. Wherever it has been introduced, mynahs are now causing major problems by destabilizing even robust ecosystems.

They cause problems such as: 1) damage to fruit and grain crops; 2) noise pollution; 3) spreading mites and disease to people and domestic animals; and 4) snatching food off people's plates in outdoor eating areas and sometimes inside houses. There are even a few rare records of mynahs attacking people.

The mynahs worst offense is its own success. It thrives at the expense of native species. For example, in Australia, studies have showed that common mynahs reduce biodiversity by: 1) fighting for hollows with native birds; 2) destroying their eggs and chicks; and 3) stopping them from breeding. Studies have also shown that when a single mynah is too weak to dislodge a competitor, a group of them will form a mob.

Behavior like that doesn't exactly endear a foreign species to its hosts. The mynah beat out stiff competition like the cane toad *Bufo marinus* (boto) and cockroach *Periplaneta americana* (kokorocho) for the 2007 Pest of Australia Award.

ANY QUESTIONS...?

Please send your questions and letters to the EBM Bulletin Editorial Team, using the contact details above. The deadline for submissions to the next newsletter is Friday 5th March 2010. Please contact the Editor for further details.

TAQOMAKI NI NODA VEIKABULA



The Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) is a U.S. based international NGO, with conservation programs all around the world, including Fiji. Over the past century, the WCS has worked to establish more than 130 parks and protected areas on land and at sea as well as working on threatened species. WCS works to save wildlife and wild places by understanding and resolving the critical problems that threaten key species and large, wild ecosystems around the world.

Our "Ecosystem-based Management" work is funded by the David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, which started in 2004. It is led by WCS, with the partners of the World Wide Fund for Nature - Fiji, Wetlands International, and the University of the South Pacific. A second EBM site is at Macuata, to the north. This newsletter focuses on the work led by WCS at Kubulau.

