

# CONSERVATION LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME FINAL REPORT

**PROJECT ID 06104412 BUILDING MARINE CONSERVATION CAPACITY OF FISHING COMMUNITIES IN FIJI**

**PROJECT AIM SUMMARY Empowering coastal communities to make better-informed decisions about the conservation of their marine environment**

**PROJECT LOCATION Kia Island, Macuata Province, Fiji**

**GRANT CATEGORY Future Conservationist**

**DATE OF REPORT COMPLETION September 2013**



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# Table of Contents

<b>Acknowledgements</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Section One</b>	
1.1 Summary	2
1.2 Introduction	3
1.3 Project Members	5
<b>Section Two</b>	
2.1 Aims and Objectives	7
2.2 Methodology	8
2.3 Outputs and Results	12
2.4 Achievements and Impacts	16
<b>Section Three</b>	
3.1 Conclusion	17
3.2 Problems Encountered and Lessons Learnt	18
3.3 In the Future	20
<b>Section Four</b>	
4.1 Appendices	21
4.2 Bibliography	24

# Acknowledgements

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Our gratitude to the various government ministries and departments- Education, Fisheries and Forests - Northern Division, Commissioners Office Northern and the Provincial Office who have been supportive from the get go. To our academic advisors and colleagues working in the field of conservation-thank you for your advice and guidance.

Thank you to the staff of Kia District School and the Reef Rangers of Kia for their continued enthusiasm and commitment.

Thanks also to our hardworking Conservation Ambassadors who have dedicated their time and worked tirelessly to make our community outreach programs such a success.

A special thank you to Luke Dickens for all your hard work, dedication and contribution to this project.

Shout out to the hardworking CLP team and the other CLP award recipients 2012—the experience and camaraderie shared at the international training in Canada set such a high benchmark for the start of our project-Thank you all.

Our sincerest and most heartfelt gratitude is reserved for the community members of Yaro, Ligau and Daku villages on Kia Island –without your goodwill, dedication and yearning for a better tomorrow, none of this work would have been possible.

*Vinaka vakalevu!*

*CLP Fiji Project Team  
September 2013.*



## 1.1 Summary

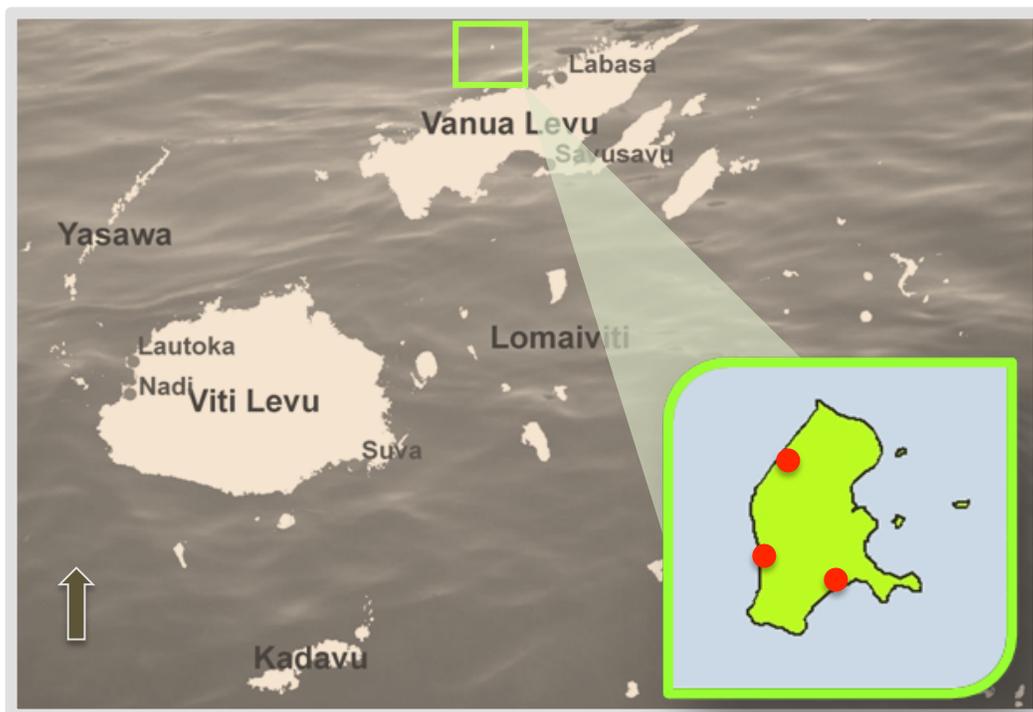
Traditionally the people of Macuata have fishing rights for the northern parts of the Great Sea Reef with overall governance by the Tui Macuata. The Fisheries Department also assists with the enforcement of legislation but is under-funded, hampering the control of unlicensed fishing, sale of undersized and protected species; dynamite fishing and use of poisonous vine. Protected species which are targeted for the food trade include humphead wrasse and green turtle. Our previous work on Kia has shown that a lack of community understanding of marine ecology and reasons behind protected area management efforts have exacerbated a lack of compliance with fishing regulations. Through this project we are building local capacity and empowering fishing communities to sustainably manage and monitor their own marine resources.

We have primarily worked with established youth groups-the Reef Rangers and Conservation Ambassadors (CAs) of Kia Island, Macuata to broaden scientific knowledge at the local level by implementing marine education lessons and activities and facilitating marine monitoring, socio-economic monitoring and social marketing training. Armed with new skills, knowledge and expertise these young people are helping raise awareness and empower the island's community to help mold attitudinal changes, make better informed decisions about their marine environment and share their knowledge and experiences with other communities reliant on the reef's rich marine resources.



## 1.2 Introduction

Kia Island in the Province of Macuata is a fishing community on the Great Sea Reef (GSR), an internationally significant marine biodiversity hotspot. Known locally as the *Cakaulevu*, the GSR provides important fishing grounds for 12 districts with a population of around 70,000 people (Heaps, 2005). The world-renowned complex reef system of over 2000km<sup>2</sup> has the highest percentages of marine biodiversity recorded in Fiji including 55% of known coral reef fishes, 74% of known coral species, 40% of known marine flora and 44% of Fiji's endemic reef fish species (Heaps, 2005). The study by Heaps (2005) also revealed that 12 species on the IUCN red list have also been documented in the GSR including the Napoleon Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*), Green and Hawksbill turtles (*Chelonia mydas* and *Eretmochelys imbricata*) and Spinner dolphins (*Stenella longirostris*). It is part of the Fiji Island Marine Ecoregion; an area considered to be of global biological significance for conservation (WWF 2001) and is a conservation site under the umbrella of the Macuata conservation network - *Siga Damu a Vanua* (an ancient Fijian war cry).



**Figure 1**

The location of Kia Island in the Fiji Group. The inset shows a close up of the island and the red circles mark the 3 villages on Kia.



## Section One

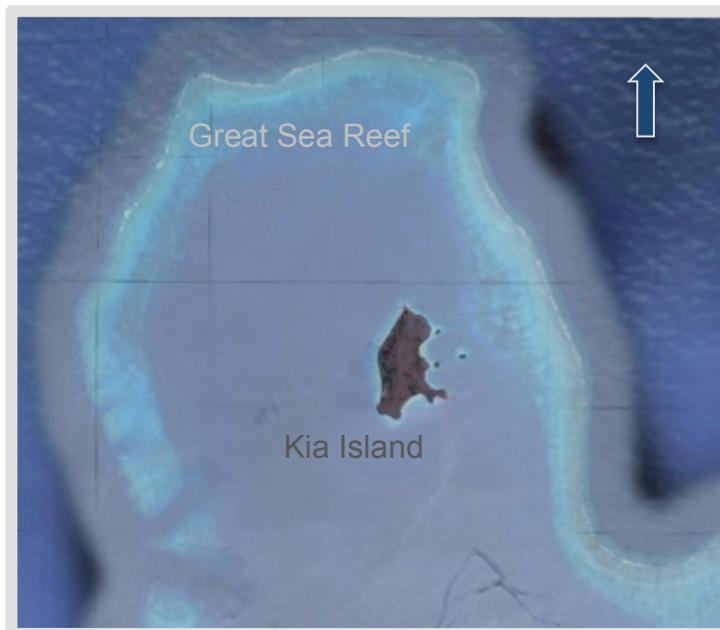


Figure 2

Kia is bordered by the Great Sea Reef

Situated 24km off the Northern coast of mainland Vanua Levu, Kia Island spans a land area of about 2km<sup>2</sup> enveloped within the extensive reaches of the Great Sea Reef. A socio-economic baseline survey of the region carried out in 2006 revealed a direct relationship between the livelihood of inhabitants of the people and the natural resources surrounding their communities (Bolabola. A et,al). For communities like Kia, the sustainability of marine resources associated with the reef is of huge significance to local population, however, the marine biodiversity and conservation status of the marine ecosystems within the GSR are very poorly understood.

On Kia, fishing is the only source of income for the people and over 80% of the local population island is vested in this industry as their primary source of income, however increasing fishing pressure is damaging the marine ecosystem and resulting in lower catch, which has serious implications for the community's livelihoods. As the future resource users, the youth have the greatest potential to change attitudes and behavior of the Kian community in managing their marine environment effectively. In partnership with other conservation NGOs, university students, relevant government ministries, research institutions and the local population on Kia we worked to raise awareness educate and empower this isolated community on one of the world's most important coral reef ecosystems.



## 1.3 Project members



### 1. Team Leader: Akosita Rokomate

**Nationality:** Fijian **Date of Birth:** 09 January 1986

**Role in Project:** Responsible for project planning and overall project management, budget management, external party communication and compilation of relevant reports

**Qualifications:** Bachelor of Arts- Double Majors: Geography, Marine Studies; University of the South Pacific (USP) **Skills and experience:** Former research assistant and Geography tutor at USP, Co-author of book: 'Cultural

Factors in Marine Managed Areas in Fiji' (In Press), Co-founding member of the Econesian Society, Conservation International Indigenous Leaders Conservation Fellow **Current Occupation:** Programme Coodinator, Community Centred Conservation Fiji and South Pacific Islands Programme **Current Employer:** Community Centred Conservation



### 2. Field Training Coordinator: Maleli Qera

**Nationality:** Fijian **Date of Birth:** 27 December 1973

**Role in Project:** Community liaison, coordinating fieldwork, data analysis and awareness raising activities, conducting biological surveying techniques **Qualifications:** Bachelor of Arts- Double Majors: Literature and Language and Geography; Post Graduate Certificate In Education; University of the South Pacific **Skills and experience:**

Excellent knowledge of Fijian language and culture- vital

link with the community, experience in conducting field surveys, an asset to the marine education project (both Conservation Ambassadors and Reef Rangers) given his vast experience in the education sector in Fiji. **Current Occupation:** Programme Officer, Community Centred Conservation Fiji and South Pacific Islands Programme **Current Employer:** Community Centred Conservation



### 3. Field Assistant: Jervis Ma'afu

**Nationality:** Fijian **Date of Birth:** 27 Dec 1984 **Role in Project:** Training and assisting with data collection, project logistics and community liaison **Qualifications:** Completed Y10 in High School, **Skills and experience:** Community Member and experienced fisherman of Kia for over 15 years, excellent knowledge of the local area and good knowledge of the fishing grounds. Important role to play



# Section One

particularly in involving youth and fishermen in training activities **Current Occupation:** Volunteer/ Full-time fisherman **Current Employer:** Self-employed



#### 4. Field Assistant: Varanise Masiniqa

**Nationality:** Fijian **Date of Birth:** 20 August 1979 **Role in Project:** Training and assisting with data collection, project logistics and community liaison **Qualifications:** High School Diploma, University of Fiji Diploma, Currently enrolled as a student at the University of the South Pacific **Skills and experience:** Excellent knowledge of the local area and an influential young person in the community, particularly in involving youth and women in training

activities; marine education experience having volunteered for C3 in the past **Current Occupation:** C3 community volunteer/ Student **Current Employer:** Student



#### 5. Field Assistant: Mere Vere

**Nationality:** Fijian **Date of Birth:** 14 April 1986 **Role in Project:** Training and assisting with data collection, project logistics and community liaison **Qualifications:** Enrolled as an Environmental Studies student, University of the South Pacific **Skills and experience:** Member Econesian Society; Part of the Honor Fiji journey, Former C3 research assistant **Current Occupation:** Student **Current Employer:** Student



### 2.1 Aim and objectives

#### Overall Aim

To empower fishing communities on the Great Sea Reef with the knowledge and expertise to sustainably manage and monitor their own marine resources.

#### Project Purpose

The purpose of this project is to build local capacity on Kia to make informed decisions to effectively manage and monitor their marine resources and to share their knowledge with the wider community.

#### Objectives

1. To train Community Conservation Ambassadors in marine conservation, survey techniques and social marketing
2. To develop a community monitoring programme of marine resources and habitats of Kia Island
3. To implement a Reef Rangers awareness raising programme, focused on the project's flagship species, managed and monitored by the Conservation Ambassadors to inform the Kian community of the importance of marine conservation for both the reef and their livelihoods.



### 2.2 Methodology

Objective 1: To train community conservation ambassadors (CAs) in marine conservation, survey techniques and social marketing

Training in Marine Conservation, Survey Techniques and Social Marketing

#### *CLP Team Training*

The CLP team was administered training in reef check, seagrass monitoring, SOCMON methodology and mangrove monitoring before training community CAs (refer to sub-section II). Education materials were produced from online sources and standardized C3 training manuals. We carried out initial team training to strengthen team capacity in understanding how and why field surveys are carried out and also to provide some practical experience in handling equipment as well as health and safety protocols.

#### *Conservation Ambassadors (CAs) Training*

Kia's CAs are a group of about 20 key individuals selected by local chiefs and C3 from across the three villages on Kia to receive training and improve the local knowledge and understanding of the conservation significance of the Great Sea Reef. We conducted 5 training modules with CAs which are detailed below:

**Social Marketing Training** Two-day social marketing training was presented to the CAs as a form of awareness raising and environmental education to build capacity and promote action. CAs were taught social marketing lessons and contributed to compilation of a planning, implementation and evaluation (PIE) report that detailed planned social marketing activities such as the development of awareness materials including sarongs and t-shirts, noticeboard updates, costumes, posters and preparations for the annual Ecofestival to celebrate small successes and the culmination of activities throughout the year.

**Socio-Economic (SOCMON) Training** We used standardized 'SocMon' methodology from the SEM Pasifika Manual, developed specifically for Pacific sites. Over the course of two weeks CAs attended training on conducting Socio- Economic key informant interviews, which consisted of lectures, rehearsals with peers and mock interview sessions with randomly selected community members.

**Reef Check Training** We used standardized citizen scientist methodology Reef Check to conduct coral reef monitoring. CAs attended theoretical classes explaining the importance of coral reefs, human induced impacts and the need to monitor these vital habitats. Two practical sessions were conducted at selected sites chosen for



## Section Two

accessibility and exceptional coral cover. All data collected was transcribed and interpreted by CAs with supervision from the CLP team.

**Mangrove Monitoring Training** CAs involved in this activity were taught standard mangrove monitoring methods derived from C3 field-training manuals. In addition to theoretical lessons about the function and importance of mangrove ecosystems, a field trip was organized to abundant mangrove forest sites on mainland Vanua Levu to practice their newly learnt skills.

**Seagrass Watch Training** As part of this training, the CAs had the opportunity to complete transects and sample the seagrass beds using hand-made quadrants to record data such as species, percent cover, location and algae percentage using standardized seagrass watch methodology. CAs learnt about the vitality of seagrass beds, which is often considered of less importance than other marine habitats that directly yield resources.

[Objective 2: To develop a community monitoring programme of marine resources and habitats of Kia Island](#)

### Endangered Species Status Assessments

#### *Landing Site Assessments of Humphead Wrasse (HHW) Fisheries*

Daily landing site surveys were carried out over the entire year (2012) in the three villages on Kia to find out if there were seasonal changes in fishing pressure or catch of the endangered species-HHW (*Cheilinus undulates*). One page catch survey forms recorded information such as its length, weight, gear used to catch the fish, location caught and the life stage of the fish. The CLP team trained local assistant volunteers who successfully took over the data collection process in the ninth month. Data was also derived through key informant interviews and participatory mapping.

#### *Underwater Visual Census of Endangered Species*

With the cooperation of local fishermen and some keen volunteers, key sites of interest were identified for timed swims to study fish behavior and migration patterns. We conducted underwater visual census (UVC) of *C. undulates* in the form of 30 minute timed swims covering 20m x 500m of reef crest at 2-3 sites on the Great Sea Reef using local knowledge, targeted low tide states and drop offs where *C.undulatus* was commonly seen and/or caught. UVC was done to estimate density of the endangered species, compare sizes classes on the reef with that of classes that were landed on Kia and other general observations on behavior and habitat. Also recorded sea turtle sightings on UVC expeditions.



## Section Two

### Reef and Seagrass Habitat Surveys

Preliminary data on reef and seagrass habitats was collected and documented by CAs and CLP team members from practical sessions for Reef Check and Seagrass Watch training modules.

**Objective 3:** To implement a Reef Rangers awareness-raising programme, focused on the project's flagship species, managed and monitored by the CAs to inform the Kian community of the importance of marine conservation for both the reef and their livelihoods

### Reef Rangers Awareness-Raising Programme

The Reef Rangers programme, which began in 2011 with funding from Conservation International, was developed to empower and educate the community, in particular the youth, about marine ecology and threats facing the natural resources they rely upon. The programme aims to improve environmental stewardship through youth education and awareness raising on Kia. Reef Rangers classroom lessons at Kia District School continued for a second consecutive year covering topics such as lagoons, rocky shores and conservation concerns. After introducing the concepts of how living systems work, the children explored four common Fijian marine habitats and the animals and plants that interact within them. Conservation concerns, particularly local issues, including littering, reef damage, overfishing, coastal deforestation, and threatened species were covered in each lesson and summarized in the final lesson.

Reef Ranger lessons also featured a variety of interactive and engaging learning tools in addition to classroom sessions to drive their conservation messages home. Using arts and crafts the children have been able harness their creativity in a fun and educational way to show what they have learnt. Following their annual assessment, the most outstanding Reef Rangers were presented with awards at the school's end of year prize-giving ceremony to encourage and reward student participation

### Social Marketing Events and Products

Conservation Ambassadors, Reef Rangers and the CLP team contributed to the development of awareness materials including sarongs and t-shirts, noticeboard updates, costumes, videos and posters as outputs for the social marketing training. These activities were selected for their simplicity, ease of implementation with resources available, appropriateness for the target audience and strength of impact as were the corresponding messages themselves.

**T-shirt Designs** T-shirts for CAs were designed in different colors to represent various training groups. The t-shirts depicted their flagship species (Humphead



## Section Two

Wrasse) on the front and a conservation message “Keep the Sea Reef Great” on the back.

**Sarong Designs** The CAs also designed plain sarongs in 8 different colors with conservation message-“Protect Now For A Better Future-My Great Sea Reef”. These were sourced and printed locally.

**Notice Boards for Project Updates** Noticeboards were purchased and decorated by the Reef Rangers depicting messages about various aspects of the marine environment and programme updates. These noticeboards were installed in each of the three villages on Kia Island to boost community awareness.

**Production of Video Diary Updates** Short yet regular video diary releases providing insight into our work on Kia were produced and uploaded online. Video Diaries comprised of interviews with CAs, Reef Rangers and community members helping raise awareness amongst Kians, the general public, partners, donors and supporters and gives community members a sense of pride for their contributions. The video diaries were intended to publicize the CLP project activities.

**Annual Kia Island EcoFestival** The EcoFestival is a day set aside every year to celebrate and raise awareness amongst the general community on the marine environment and environmental issues concerning Kia whilst promoting marine conservation and the sustainable use of the Great Sea Reef. The event featured interactive activities, informative booths, posters about flagship species, competitions, drama, parades and games designed, organized and executed by the CAs and Reef Rangers with support from the CLP field team.

**Conservation Ambassadors Community Update** The CAs delivered a presentation to the community during a workshop organized by the Department of Fisheries, Northern Division- the first of its kind to be held on the island by any government department. The presentation underlined the connectivity and fragility of marine ecosystems, talking specifically about the 3 habitats the CAs had been learning about-seagrass, mangroves and coral reefs and our Humphead wrasse work.



## 2.3 Outputs and Results

Objective 1: To train community conservation ambassadors (CAs) in marine conservation, survey techniques and social marketing

### Training in Marine Conservation, Survey Techniques and Social Marketing

Five separate training modules were conducted over a four-month period with 20 CAs selected from across the island, now certified in the various topics:



**Social Marketing Training** 19 CAs and 4 CLP team members participated in the social marketing training. The major output of this training was the planning, implementation and evaluation (PIE) report completed detailing specific, measurable, audience focused, relevant and time limited (SMART) objectives for the social marketing campaign; awareness raising and environmental activities for the campaign and the designation of personnel into teams for social marketing and survey and monitoring. A schedule for monthly CA meetings each month to discuss the implementation of the social marketing campaign was an additional output derived from this training workshop that led to the production of social marketing products described under objective 2 below.



**Socio-economic (SocMon) Monitoring Methodolgy** 9 CAs and 4 CLP team members were a part of the SocMon training. A total of 7 mock SOCMON interviews were completed by groups of CAs in three villages on Kia.



**Reef Check Training** 14 CAs and 4 CLP team members attended the theory training sessions and we organized 2 practical survey sessions; 8 CAs were present at the first in-water session and 6 participated in the final survey.



**Mangrove monitoring** 9 CAs and 4 CLP team members completed this training module. We conducted a practice session on Kia to demonstrate the methodology and carried out 3 quadrants in one transect at the Korotubu Mangrove Reserve.

**Seagrass Watch Training** 12 CAs and 4 CLP team members were part of seagrass watch training. 14 quadrants were surveyed in Yaro Bay, Kia as a practical exercise.

CAs participate in training modules on Kia



## Section Two

Objective 2: To develop a community monitoring programme of marine resources and habitats of Kia Island

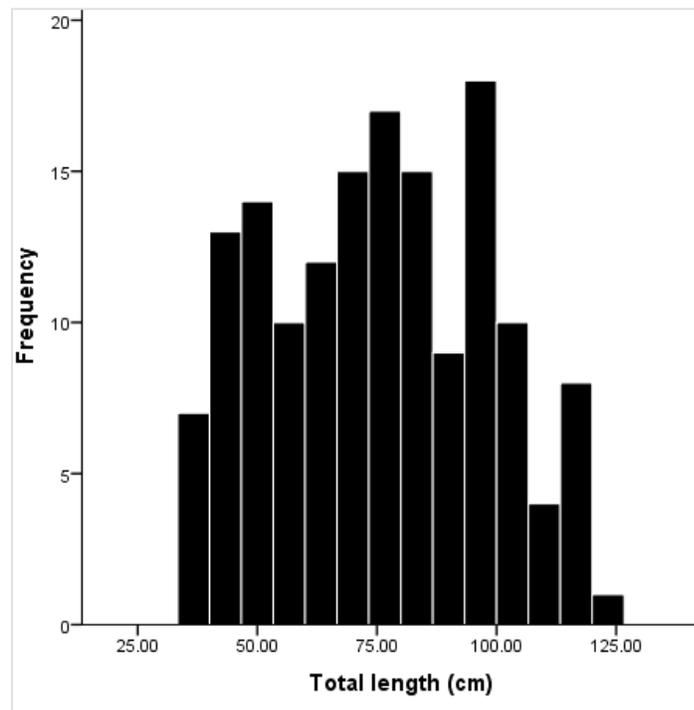
### Endangered Species Status Assessments



**Humphead Wrasse (*Cheilinus undulatus*) Fishery of the Great Sea Reef** Well over 1000 man-hours were spent checking boats, recording and collating data for landing site surveys from January-December 2012. Of the 194 *C.undulatus* landings documented, 156 were successfully recorded. 68% of the catch was sold to the local fishing agent and the remainder intended for local consumption. Majority of the *C. undulatus* specimens landed were caught on or around the Great Sea Reef area within approx. 20 km of Kia Island. In contrast to the live trade where mostly juveniles are caught, trade in Fiji still consists of a considerable number of mature, highly fecund, large, rare individuals. The frequency histogram below shows the fish lengths from 2012 *C. undulatus* catch data on the Great Sea Reef (n = 153, mean =  $75.30 \pm 22.60$  SD).



Humphead wrasse landed on Kia



Underwater visual census revealed that caught individuals were significantly longer than fish sighted on the reef. The healthiest population of *C.undulatus* was present at the “protected” and most distant reef, Nasoso Reef (A), which also recorded the



## Section Two

maximum individuals observed in a single survey. The table below shows the 35 *C.undulatus* sightings recorded at 3 sites and their range of phases.

Phase	Nasoso (A)	Nasoso (B)	Nadamu (C)	Total
<b>A (small juvenile)</b>	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>B (big juvenile)</b>	5	2	0	<b>7</b>
<b>C (adult)</b>	15	8	2	<b>25</b>
<b>D (adult)</b>	2	1	0	<b>3</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>35</b>



CAs conduct Seagrass surveys

### Reef Check and Seagrass Watch Monitoring

Preliminary survey results for finfish indicated no Haemulidae, *Altilvelis cromileptis*, *Cheilinus undulatus*, *Bolbometopon muricatum*, or Serranidae (> 30 cm) in the transect area. An abundance of Chaetodontidae was also noted. We found very few invertebrate indicators in the transect and an extensive high-level coral impacts were also recorded though trash and destructive fishing practices were non-evident. Amid the highest coral cover in the area there was still a high proportion of rubble and recently killed coral. Of the five found in Fiji, three different species were identified successfully. This included two very similar species; *Halodule uninervis* and *Halodule pinifolia*, which were distinguished by blade width; and *Halophila Ovalis*.

**Objective 3: To implement a Reef Rangers awareness-raising programme, focused on the project's flagship species, managed and monitored by the CAs to inform the Kian community of the importance of marine conservation for both the reef and their livelihoods**

### Reef Rangers Awareness-Raising Programme

This programme involved about 70 Reef Rangers from Kia District School, including school staff, 10 CAs and local volunteers plus the CLP field team of 4. Reef Rangers classroom lessons covered 6 key topics: introducing ecology, rocky shores, mangroves, lagoons, open oceans and conservation concerns. With the help of CAs



## Section Two



and the CLP team, Reef Rangers participated in social outreach campaigns at 3 community events throughout the project term –the school and church bazaars and the annual EcoFestival at the end of the year. Reef Rangers also led practical activities completing 8 beach cleanups and 4 coastal replanting activities across the 3 villages on Kia.

### Social Marketing Events and Products

**T-shirt Designs** We produced 25 t-shirts for CAs in 4 different colors indicating their training group.



**Sarong Designs** 200 sarongs were produced in 8 colors and these were distributed as prizes and gifts for community members and other stakeholders involved in our CLP project.

**Notice Boards for Project Updates** 4 Noticeboards were purchased and installed in each of the 3 villages on Kia Island



**Production of Video Diaries** We produced 15 video diaries that were uploaded monthly on C3's youtube and vimeo accounts with links to C3's social networking accounts on Facebook and Twitter. Links to our video updates were also posted to C3's website and CLP's Facebook page.



**Annual Kia Island EcoFestival** 20 CAs, 70 Reef Rangers, 15 community volunteers and the CLP team helped organize this event that was attended by close to a hundred community members and invited guests, including 5 government representatives from the Ministry of Fisheries. For the day we produced 8 handmade posters for display, set up 6 informative booths for the community to browse through and the Reef Rangers participated in a marine character and fashion show.



**Conservation Ambassadors Community Update** 2 CAs presented at this workshop organized by the Ministry of Fisheries, which was attended by about 40 people in total comprised of community members, government officials, CAs and the CLP team on Kia Island.

CAs and Reef Rangers during social marketing events on Kia



## 2.4 Achievements and Impacts



In designing the training modules for this project we chose to train a small group of community members on site, selected in consultation with Kia elders as Conservation Ambassadors (CAs). Conservation Ambassadors (CAs) certified in various marine and socio-economic monitoring methods and social marketing played an integral part in the planning and organization of the social marketing campaign targeting the broader community, which not only promoted local participation and ownership of the project but allowed for a more refined conservation message about the environmental issues facing Kia.



All the training modules delivered received good reviews from trainees about the relevance and timeliness of the knowledge and skills imparted and this was also evident in the participation and attendance.



Endangered species such as green sea turtle and Humphead wrasse have been adopted as flagship species and information about their life cycles and ecology has been widespread throughout the community via social marketing.



Reef Rangers success continued into its third year of lessons and activities at Kia District School and its 70 strong members grew with the expansion of the network beyond Kia and outreach activities for schools on mainland Vanua Levu already underway. Reef Rangers have also received international recognition for their voluntary environmental work having made the global finals of the 2013 UNEP/Volvo Adventure Awards in Sweden.



Access to information and awareness of marine conservation issues on Kia has improved as is evidenced in the design and production of noticeboards, t-shirts and sarongs that are well liked and appreciated by the Kian community and others. We have worked hard to build the capacity and maintain a strong team of Kia Island Conservation Ambassadors who have enthusiastically taken over much of the management of the Reef Rangers from the CLP project team including the expansion of the programme to the mainland Vanua Levu already underway.

2012 Achievements



## Section Two

Undersized finfish recorded during reef check surveys reflect an overfishing of food fishes. An abundance of Chaetodontidae may indicate relative coral health. Very few invertebrate indicator species were present in the transect suggesting a history of unsustainable extractive practices. The accessibility of fringing reefs to islanders means these will be the first to be overfished and are unlikely to recover due to opportunistic fishing and reef gleaning by women and children who are less likely to venture far from the village and consequently damage coral which is already facing chronic impacts from land and boat activities while effectively removing the majority of invertebrates.



### 3.1 Conclusion

Through our Future Conservationist project we have worked to reinforce and further develop the Reef Rangers and Conservation Ambassadors (CAs) networks. This was done through training workshops, classroom lessons and field excursions enriching their understanding of traditional knowledge with simple science and imparting the skills to monitor their marine resources using standardized citizen survey methods. Armed with new skills and knowledge, our Reef Rangers and CAs were able to help communicate a clear, strong conservation message to the broader community, advocate for more stringent marine management strategies and bridge the information gaps.

Involving the local community from the get go proved to be advantageous in promoting a sense of project ownership and pride, which are crucial factors in the success of any project.



### 3.2 Problems encountered and lessons learnt

There have been many trials encountered throughout the course of this project – ranging from poor communication and changes to planned scheduled activities given the unpredictable nature of living and working in the field and community dynamics that have challenged field personnel on many occasions. In retrospect the positive results achieved clearly outweigh the often-fleeting frustrating moments. Our team has worked hard to address these challenges in ensuring that overall project aims and objectives were achieved.

While the success and sustainability of any project implemented at the grassroots level is driven by how well the locals are engaged, community members who volunteer their time freely for project work also have daily chores, responsibilities and family obligations to meet. To encourage participation, their programs were taken into consideration during the planning and execution of activities and our schedule made as flexible as possible. Comprehensive day-to-day planning at the start of the project is important to be able to carry out various activities within a specific timeframe and makes it easier to implement changes, if required.

For logistical reasons we were unable to get a professional video crew out to make a short film so we improvised and produced amateur footage for video diaries uploaded and disseminated regularly to boost awareness. We conducted interviews with CLP staff, CAs, Reef Rangers and documented the work being carried out on the Fiji programme. This worked out well as the videos were current and ensured that various aspects of the work (and the people involved) were captured and shared not only with community members but also with partners, donors and friends.

The most valuable lessons learnt are highlighted below:

1. Behavioral and attitudinal changes go hand in hand with capacity building, awareness raising and education.
2. Adequate planning of activities ensures that delegation of work and finances are in check before the work is carried out. This is important for continuity, which in turn builds momentum, enthusiasm and confidence in the local community. Planning must be developed taking into consideration the needs of all stakeholders to ensure outputs are wholesome and useful to everyone.
3. Adaptability and gaining trust in the collection of raw and sensitive data are especially vital when conducting field research. Local and indigenous people have a wealth of intricate traditional knowledge about the marine environment on which they so heavily rely- they are not always willing to share this precious information with strangers, particularly if their motives are unknown. Keeping the community well informed and involved as much as possible throughout the



## Section Three

duration of your project builds trust, local capacity and promotes a sense of pride and project ownership. Use influential community figures such as the CAs to help channel and disseminate information signifies the local contribution to the project in the immediate term and aids the sustainability of the project in the long term.

4. We worked in partnership with local volunteers, government officials, other NGOs, those directly involved in projects and the general community emphasizing the importance of the engagement and participation of all relevant stakeholders.
5. Sharing information, lessons and data through community updates, social marketing activities, video diaries is important to ensure that everyone is included and well informed. Gaining project recognition by sharing experiences and publicizing our work lead to better networking, increased public awareness and more opportunities for financial support to continue our work on Kia.



### 3.3 In the future

Given the success of the Reef Rangers programme on Kia, we are confident that now is the time to take this project to the next level and expand the Reef Rangers to other fishing communities on the Great Sea Reef. The Reef Rangers outreach to mainland Vanua Levu will also involve CAs and this will contribute to increase in awareness of communities outside Kia with the participation of at least 500 non-Kians in this activity. We have secured the Kate Stokes Memorial Award to begin this work and lined up two primary schools on the mainland who have shown interest in participating.

Our vision for the project in the next five years includes a reduction of the incidence of illegal fishing (using destructive fishing gears or capture of endangered species) reduced to zero-monitored, to increase livelihood diversity on Kia Island and improve the living conditions for the community of Kia Island

We will continue to build networks and partnerships through close cooperation with all stakeholders to ensure that future projects embrace the participatory approach; build the capacity of local relevant bodies and people and capitalize on existing traditional knowledge and management practices.



# Section Four

## 4.1 Appendices

### CLP 2012-2013 Summary of Income and Expenditure

A full version of the accounts can be viewed in the attached excel sheet: CLP FJ 2012-2013 Financial Report FINAL.xls

Itemized expenses	Total CLP requested (USD)	Total CLP used (USD)	Percent Budget Used (%)
<b>PHASE I - PROJECT PREPARATION</b>			
Administration			
Communications (telephone/internet/postage)	800.00	830.83	103.85
Books and printing journal articles/materials	1,600.00	1,547.79	96.74
Team training (Reef Check/SOCMON/Mangrove Monitoring/Seagrass watch)	800.00	1,087.62	135.95
Equipment			
Scientific/field equipment and supplies (Please detail:waterproof measuring tapes and watches, stationary,sound system,laptop,lifejackets	2,310.00	1,570.91	68.00
Camping equipment (Please detail main items:kitchen/cooking equipment, furniture )	550.00	523.23	95.13
Fuel	800.00	641.43	80.18
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,860.00</b>	<b>6,201.82</b>	<b>90.41</b>
<b>PHASE II - IMPLEMENTATION EXPENSES</b>			
Transportation			
Accommodation for team members and local guides	390.00	393.65	100.94
Food for team members and local guides	875.00	743.06	84.92
Transportation	1,200.00	1,321.41	110.12
Stipends	1,044.00	1,572.08	150.58
Workshops			
Training workshop	900	895.9	99.54
Outreach/education activities and materials (Posters, video, t-shirts, sarongs.)	2,531.00	2,538.56	100.30
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>6,940.00</b>	<b>7,464.66</b>	<b>107.56</b>
<b>PHASE III - POST-PROJECT EXPENSES</b>			
Administration	800.00	945.01	118.13
Report production and results dissemination	300.00	344.34	114.78
Other (Please detail: Bank charges )	100.00	43.04	43.04
<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>1,200.00</b>	<b>1,332.40</b>	<b>111.03</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,000.00</b>	<b>14,998.87</b>	<b>99.99</b>

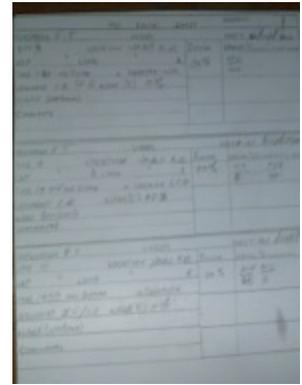
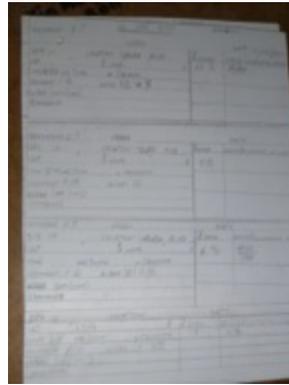
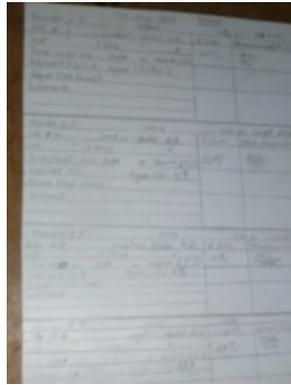
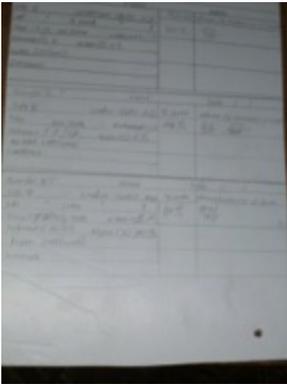


# Section Four

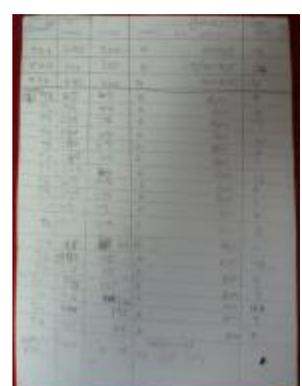
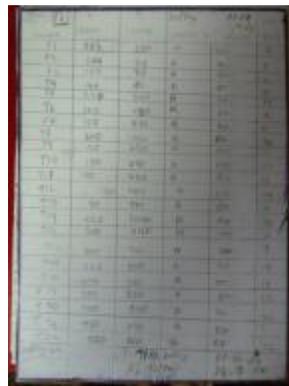
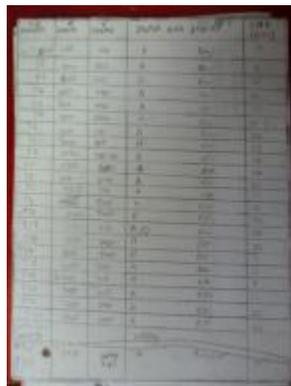
## CLP 2012-2013 Raw Field Data

All field data was recorded on underwater slates

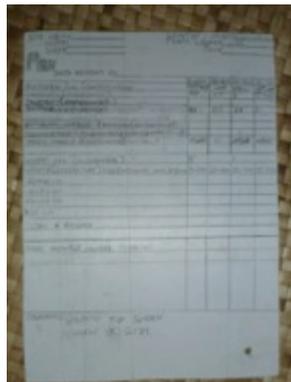
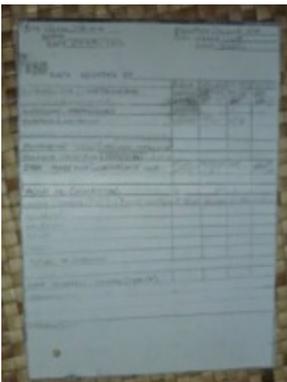
### *Seagrass Watch*



### *Mangrove Monitoring*



### *Reef Check*





## Section Four

### **Video Diaries**

The following are links are video diaries about the team's conservation work on Kia and our project activities:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A8qbEkLKQUg>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tBasVqfN3sg&feature=plcp>  
<http://www.youtube.com/user/C3videos?feature=watch>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CETVTC2r7Tc>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=\\_Tame3Tt3GE](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Tame3Tt3GE)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E5acyLVOy4E>  
[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn\\_s2aYIFqU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn_s2aYIFqU)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5Oapm-1xMLA>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CeBE-JS0fQE&feature=c4-overview&list=UUBbSDvMq5jILF3giXtHauHQ>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uqZZ1F4Ufhw>  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kQ3yXw3q7ro>  
<http://vimeo.com/59336633>  
<http://vimeo.com/66142499>  
<http://vimeo.com/68040043>

### **In the Press**

*Stories in the Fiji Times (national newspaper)*

<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=212509>  
<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=197173>  
<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=230044>  
<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=230046>  
<http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?ref=archive&id=233588>



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