

DRAWA Rainforest Conservation Project

***Presentation for Fiji carbon Market
Strategy Roadmap***

1st May 2023



**live &
learn**

ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION

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History

- Developed under an EU-funded project, 2010 - 2015
- Nakau was also established under the EU project as the “Program Operator”
- Drawa Project’s official start date for carbon accounting is September 2012 (Project Period = 30 years)
- In 2018, the Drawa Project was officially endorsed by the National REDD+ Steering Committee and validated under the international Plan Vivo Standard.
- The Project first issued and sold carbon credits in 2018.
- The Drawa Project has become recognised as a leading demonstration for VCM projects in the Pacific region.

Background (project design)

- Licensed to operate under the Nakau Programme and validated under the Plan Vivo Standard
- Co-designed with communities (highly participatory)
- The project activity is forest protection. The baseline activity (avoided) is commercial logging.
- Forest protected under a Conservation Lease & managed under a Conservation Management Plan
- Carbon sequestration rights holder and leaseholder is the Drawa Block Forest Communities Cooperative (DBFCC), owned by 8 Mataqali
- Carbon accounting area: 1,723 Ha (8 land parcels)
- Annual ERs/credit volume: 15,176 tCO₂



PES Agreement





Project developer
– provider of tools,
systems &
methodologies

Certification

Agent for sales
& credit registry

Technical
support





VCM
Standard &
Certifiers

Community
Focused

Social
safeguards:
Equitable
Benefit Sharing

Highest VCM
Credit Prices



Outcomes & Achievements

- We now have a “proof of concept” for a feasible and sustainable VCM project at a scale that aligns with customary land ownership
- The governance & benefit-sharing systems work well and are sustainable
- We have built local capacity – e.g. for forest monitoring using Smart Phone Apps
- Total credit sales to date: 127,050 PVCs
- Total Income: USD \$1,357,552 (60% of income to DBFCC)
- Average credit price: 1st issuance (USD \$9.25); 2nd issuance (USD \$14.25)
- Price range: USD \$7.65 – USD \$20.00



Benefit Sharing & Community Engagement

- *Project Owner (60%)*
- *Project Coordinator (20%)*
- *Project Operator (20%)*



Challenges

- There was no model to follow. (It will be much easier for future projects!)
- Developed during a period when climate policy was still being created = policy uncertainty (not good for attracting investment)
- To avoid double counting Drawa had to be excluded from the National Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) ER Program Area. This was achieved by ‘masking out’ the Drawa area from the FCPF ERP crediting area.
- No opportunity to replicate Drawa in Fiji to date. This is because new local-scale projects would be within the same area as the national FCPF ERP area (leading to double counting). Post-2024 it could be possible.
- By comparison, in the Solomon Islands, Nakau is currently replicating the Babatana Project (Drawa’s “sister project”) in 10 new locations.



Reflection and Expansion

- The Drawa model can be replicated and scaled under the VCM.
- The Climate Change Act gives more certainty to VCM projects. But we still need to understand how national-scale and project-scale activities can co-exist.
- Drawa shows that project-scale VCM activities can exist alongside national or jurisdictional projects. However, if a national-scale project is set up first, it may “block” replication
- Nakau and Plan Vivo implement ethical and effective Safeguards. However, not all VCM project developers do things the same way! Fiji needs strong Safeguards to keep “Carbon Cowboys” away.



Ecosystems-based Climate Adaptation Project (2020-2023)

- Northern Division - 20 Communities (10 Cakaudrove, 7 Bua, 3 Macuata)
- Stakeholders Partnership & Collaboration
- Establishment of 17 Co-operatives (Mataqali)
- Capacity building Training
- Carbon Eligibility Assessment by Nakau (Program Operators)
 - 2 Communities – (Kavula, Lekutu & Saolo Wainunu)
 - Another 4 communities have potential. (Dawara, Nakasa/Nacodreudreu & Nakawaga, Cakaudrove; Nakawakawa, Wainunu, Bua).
- Factors:
 - Government policy
 - Approval to replicate DRAWA (Voluntary Carbon Market)
- Opportunity:
 - Potential funding

Table 23: Estimated project revenue – Kavula Land (in FJD).

Year of Issuance	2026	2029	2034	2039
	(2 Years)	(3 Years)	(5 Years)	(5 Years)
Net Carbon Credits (tCO ₂)	23,786	35,679	59,465	59,465
Estimated Price (per credit)	28.55	35.47	50.93	73.11
Total Revenue	679,182	1,265,619	3,028,267	4,347,470

Table 24: Estimated project revenue – Navucivuci Land (in FJD).

Year of Issuance	2026	2029	2034	2039
Net Carbon Credits (tCO ₂)	17,412	26,118	43,530	43,530
Estimated Price (per credit)	28.55	35.47	50.93	73.11
Total Revenue	497,180	926,468	2,216,774	3,182,466

Strategic Priorities for the Fiji Carbon Market Roadmap

- Accessible option for landowners to participate in the VCM. E.g. policy allowing them to opt out of national scale programs (be voluntarily excluded) if they prefer to pursue opportunities in the VCM
- Safeguards that exclude carbon cowboys
- Ensure there is a business case for investment. E.g. take care that policies (e.g. compliance requirements) don't increase costs to the point that small-scale projects become unfeasible.
- Increase policy certainty – e.g. have an approval process that de-risks investment.
- Nakau & Plan Vivo's current preference is that Pacific Governments do not make Corresponding Adjustments for VCM activities such as Drawa (*Please consult Nakau for further details*)



Thank you

