



SAMBIONEWS

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE



BIODIVERSITY & SITE SPOTLIGHT

Project Site: Natewa and Tunuloa

18 February 2026, NATEWA. The SAMBIO team made a field visit to the Vusaratu Conservation Lease Area in Fiji's Natewa and Tunuloa Key Biodiversity Area. Trekking through forest and river terrain, the team took in the beauty of this priority terrestrial site, home to the endemic Natewa Silktail and Natewa Swallowtail Butterfly also known locally as Sisi and Bebe. Other species sighted include the Fiji Whistler (ketedromo) and the Fiji Streaked Fantail.



SAMBIO project team with Vusaratu tour guide ready to explore Natewa-Tunuloa Conservation area



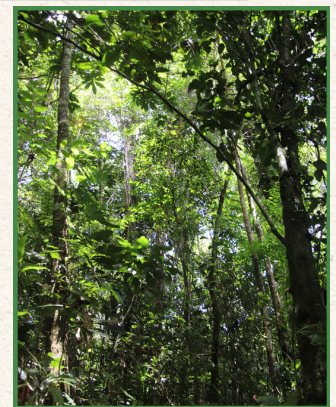
Natewa-Tunuloa Forest - Drone View



Fiji Streaked Fantail



Forest Stream



Deep inside the Forest

Keystone Species Data & Management Plans

17 February 2026, SUVA. The SAMBIO team convened a meeting with Fiji Species Working Group to identify keystone species of Fiji. The Species Working Group has come to a consensus and made recommendations to the Protected Areas Committee (PAC) who will in turn provide their proposal to the National Environment Council (NEC) in the next sitting.



SAMBIO GIS officer Mr Nasir Raza presented keystone species findings to the Fiji Species Working Group

The Government of Fiji, through the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC), with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF-7) and Conservation International (CI) and executing partner BirdLife International (BLI) is implementing the Safeguarding Marine and Terrestrial Biodiversity in Fiji (SAMBIO) Project. The project contributes to Fiji's commitments under the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP), and the Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework.



COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT

Northern Communities and Government Unite for Safeguarding Fiji's Biodiversity

17 February 2026, VANUALEVU. In a significant step for safeguarding Fiji's biodiversity, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change has secured formal alignment with traditional landowners and provincial authorities in the Northern Division to advance the SAMBIO Project.

Following traditional protocols in communities like Doguru Village in Macuata and Vusaratu Village in Cakaudrove, the project unites government bodies, Conservation International, and BirdLife International with local resource owners.

The core mission is to safeguard nationally and globally significant marine and terrestrial biodiversity by embedding conservation efforts directly within existing community structures and traditional governance systems, ensuring that environmental protection is led by the people who know the land best.



SAMBIO Project Team met with Mata ni Tikina the landowner of Doguru Village, in Macuata, Vanua Levu. Delaikoro is a SAMBIO project site located in this area.



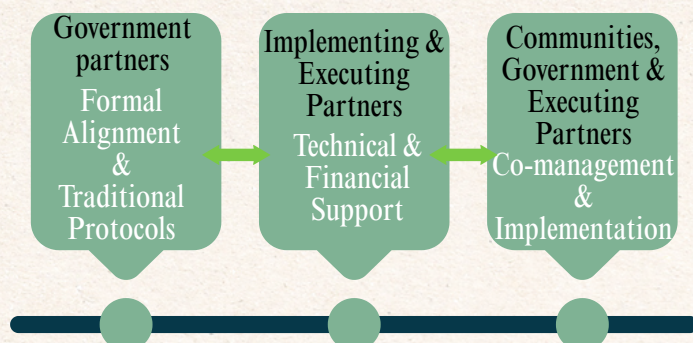
Project Site: Delaikoro



Project Site: Natewa-Tunuloa



Successful talanoa session between the SAMBIO Project Team and landowners of Vusaratu Village, Cakaudrove, Vanua Levu. Natewa-Tunuloa is one of eight SAMBIO project sites.



The SAMBIO Partnership Model: Working Together for Fiji's Biodiversity

This diagram visually represents the collaborative measures that takes place between Fiji Government, relevant stakeholders, and communities to successfully execute the SAMBIO Project. The team will work with all parties to achieve its goal.

STAKEHOLDER SPOTLIGHT

Divisional Consultations



SAMBIO Fiji Project Team met with Commissioner Central Division Team

From February, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change (MECC), in partnership with BirdLife International, launched a series of targeted "pocket meetings" with key divisional representatives from the Eastern, Central, Western and Northern from the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, and other relevant stakeholder representatives to enhance government coordination for the SAMBIO Project.



Meeting with Commissioner Northern Division Team

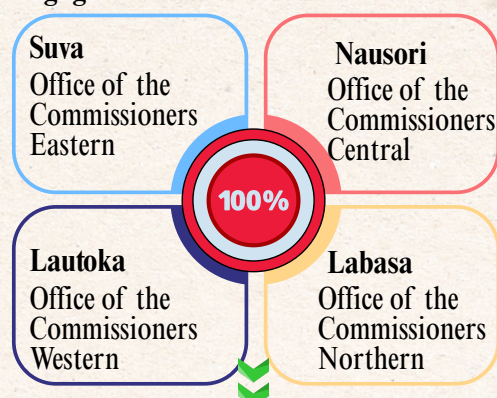
Key Partner: Ministry of Fisheries



Keystone species meeting with Ministry of Fisheries

19 March 2026, SUVA. SAMBIO Team from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, with executing partner BirdLife International met with Ministry of Fisheries Senior Planning Officer, Tarisi Shaw, to identify keystone species within Fiji, and discuss the review of existing and development of future keystone species management plans.

Engagements Across the Divisions



Key Outcomes

Project Introduction: Formally introduced the SAMBIO (Safeguarding Marine and Terrestrial Biodiversity in Fiji) Project to divisional representatives.

Strategic Alignment: Outlined priority sites and the implementation approach to ensure alignment with local, regional and international standards.

Unified Approach: Secured divisional support for upcoming community-level work, ensuring biodiversity protection is integrated across national policy, local governance, and community engagement.

PROJECT MANAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT

Donor Update



SAMBIO Team from Ministry SAMBIO PMU, BLI and CI met with CI-GEF Representative from the United States of America, Ms Prapti Bhandary.

02 March 2026, SUVA. The SAMBIO Project Management Unit from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, BirdLife International and Conservation International representatives updated Ms Prapti and presented on past and ongoing activities, priorities, challenges and opportunities for this Financial Year 2025-2026.

Dedicated SAMBIO Project Vehicles



Reverend Jiare Viliame leading the dedication service

14 January 2026, SUVA. Reverend Jiare Viliame from Yarawa Wesley Church conducted the dedication service for the two SAMBIO vehicles with attendance of Ministry's staff at Bali Towers, Toorak Road. The vehicles will be used by the team in the implementation of SAMBIO activities.



Strategy & Planning Workshop 2025

Strategy & Planning

24 March 2026, SIGATOKA. SAMBIO PMU together with Birdlife International had a 3-day strategy and planning workshop from the 24 March - 27 March to finalize the workplan for the next financial year and ensure activities align with overall project timeline.

KEY ACTIVITIES

Qty	Activity
8	Weekly update meetings
7	Technical Evaluation Panel Meetings and Interview for 3 Consultancies
4	KOBO & TESSA meetings
2	Species Working Group
1	Marine KBA Meeting
1	11 th Fiji KBA NCG Meeting

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- National Stakeholder Meeting with iTLTB
- Kadavu & Ra Courtesy Visits
- KOBQ Meeting
- Keystone species pocket meetings with Ministries of Fisheries and Agriculture
- Submissions to NEC on PA definitions, keystone species definitions and species/taxa proposals
- Project Steering Committee Meeting
- Site Coordination and Management Meeting
- Quarterly meeting with CI-GEF
- Consultancy procurement
- Project Site Management and Coordination meeting