

Local Communities & Indigenous Peoples Platform Sharing **Our** Story

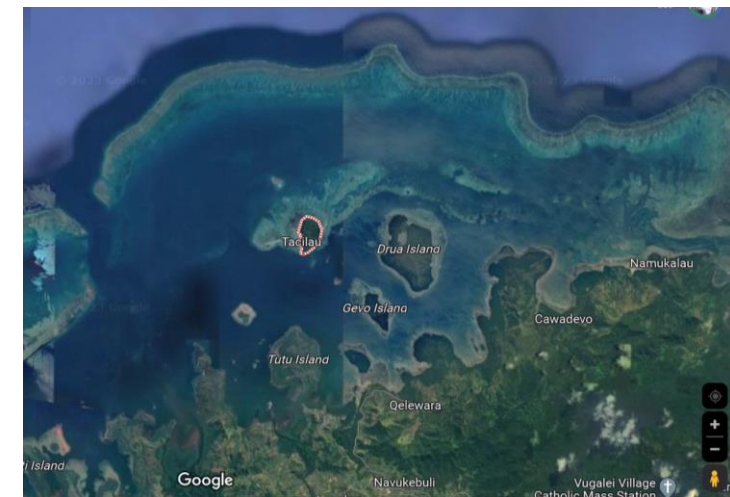
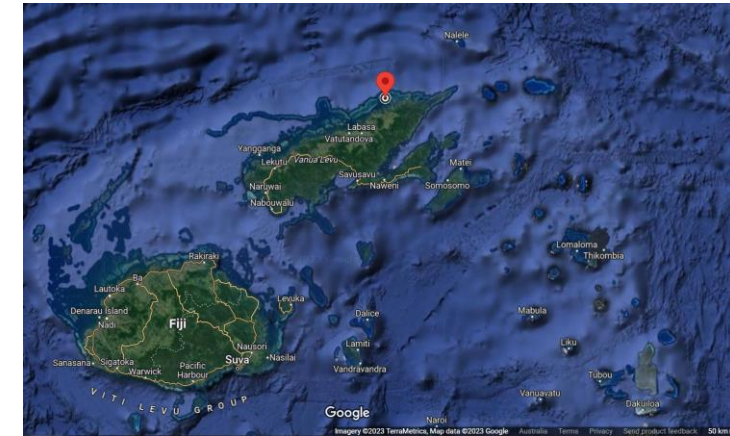
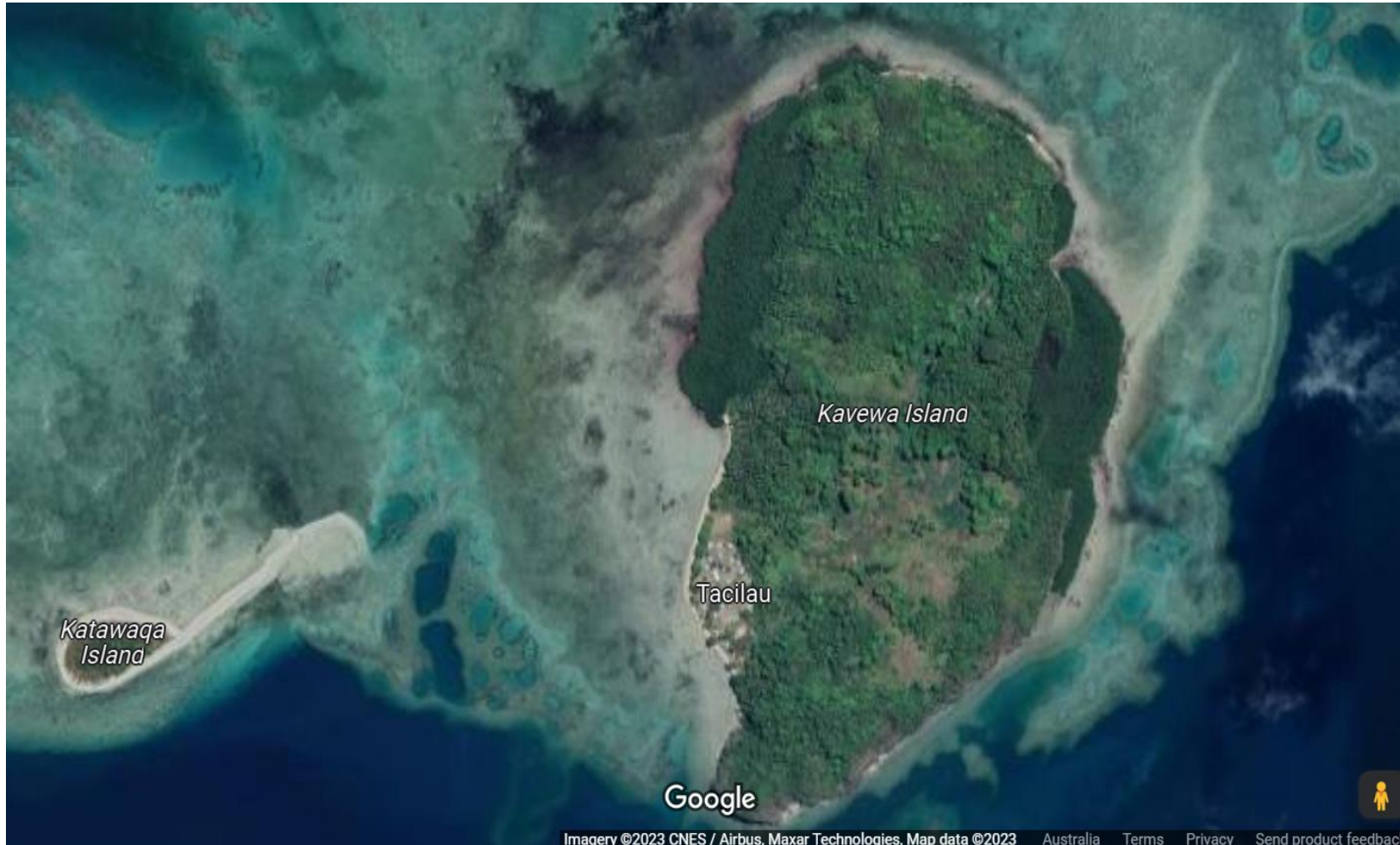
Talei Silibaravi
Kavewa Island_Nadogo
Macuata, Vanua Levu



OUR JOURNEY – HOW IT STARTED?



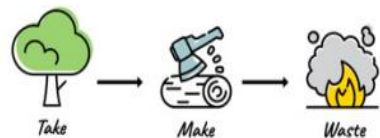
Kavewa Island, Nadogo District, Macuata Province, Fiji.



Kavewa Clean Cooking Energy Project



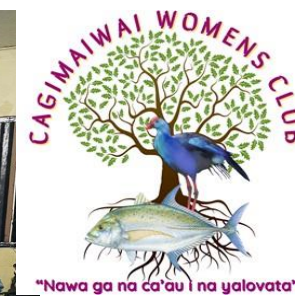
Circular economy



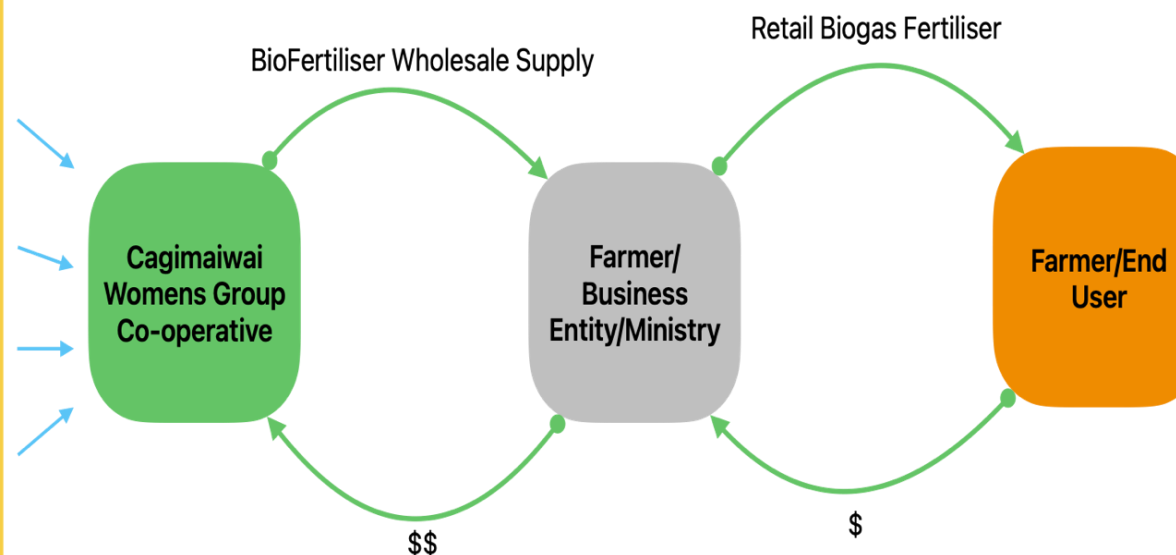
Energy from finite sources



Energy from renewable sources



1. Accredited Raw Supply/ Standard/ POETCom
2. Quality Test Kits/Litmus Test Model
3. Cost Model
4. Supply Chain/ Infrastructure/ Bottling/ Branding



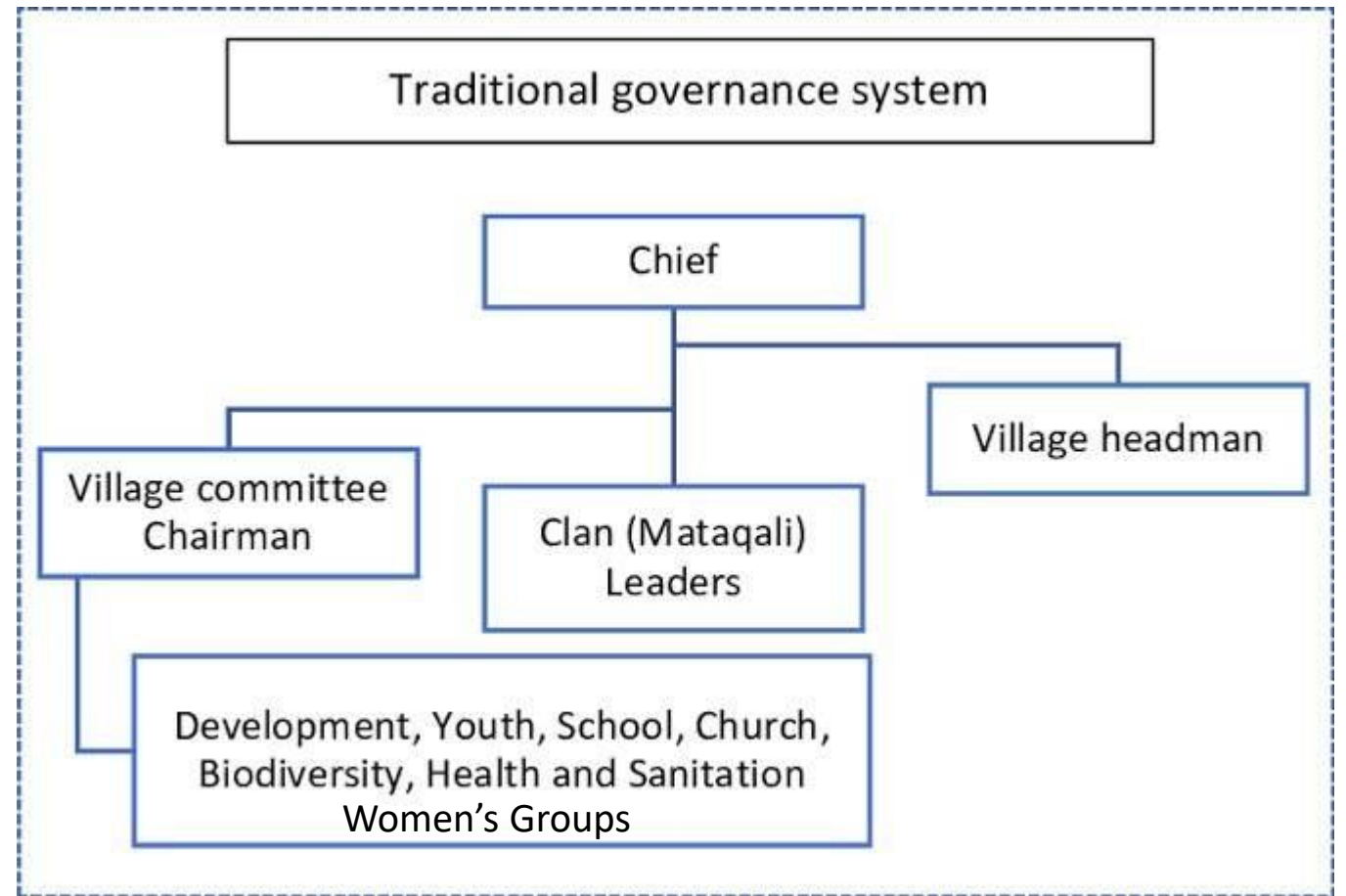
Inclusive – whole community benefit & reduced pressure on forest for firewood, while managing household waste



Community support

Gaining support from men in my community

- Identify a male champion
- Young Indigenous women professionals



Project Sustainability

- Partnered with Research Institutions and Ministries, and other stakeholders
- Developing the Bio-Fertiliser from the biogas digester
- Peer learning with other community-based organisations – **2023 National Symposium on Community Led Initiatives on Environment Sustainability**
- **Voices to the Community Technical support group of volunteers**
 - **Application for funds**
 - **Support project implementation and monitoring**
 - **Support reporting back and exploring further opportunities**



Challenges & Opportunities

Challenges:

- Very remote island communities and access to essential services and support from government is slow and expensive
- High climate vulnerability
- Pressure from poaching and lack of enforcement by relevant authorities to ensure compliance of our MPA management rules
- Fragmented national policies and legislations
- Funding restrictions
- Pressure from unsustainable development

Opportunities:

- The strength of our partnerships and networks with external stakeholders who had been supporting us for the last 20 years
- The relationships and opportunities for us to learn and from other LCIP groups from across Fiji, the Pacific and globally
- Partners and champions who are advocating our voices and priorities at national, regional and global level
- The power of women and the family support group
- Voices to the Community Technical Support Group – multi-stakeholder support group for community initiatives



Continuous Government & Stakeholder Support

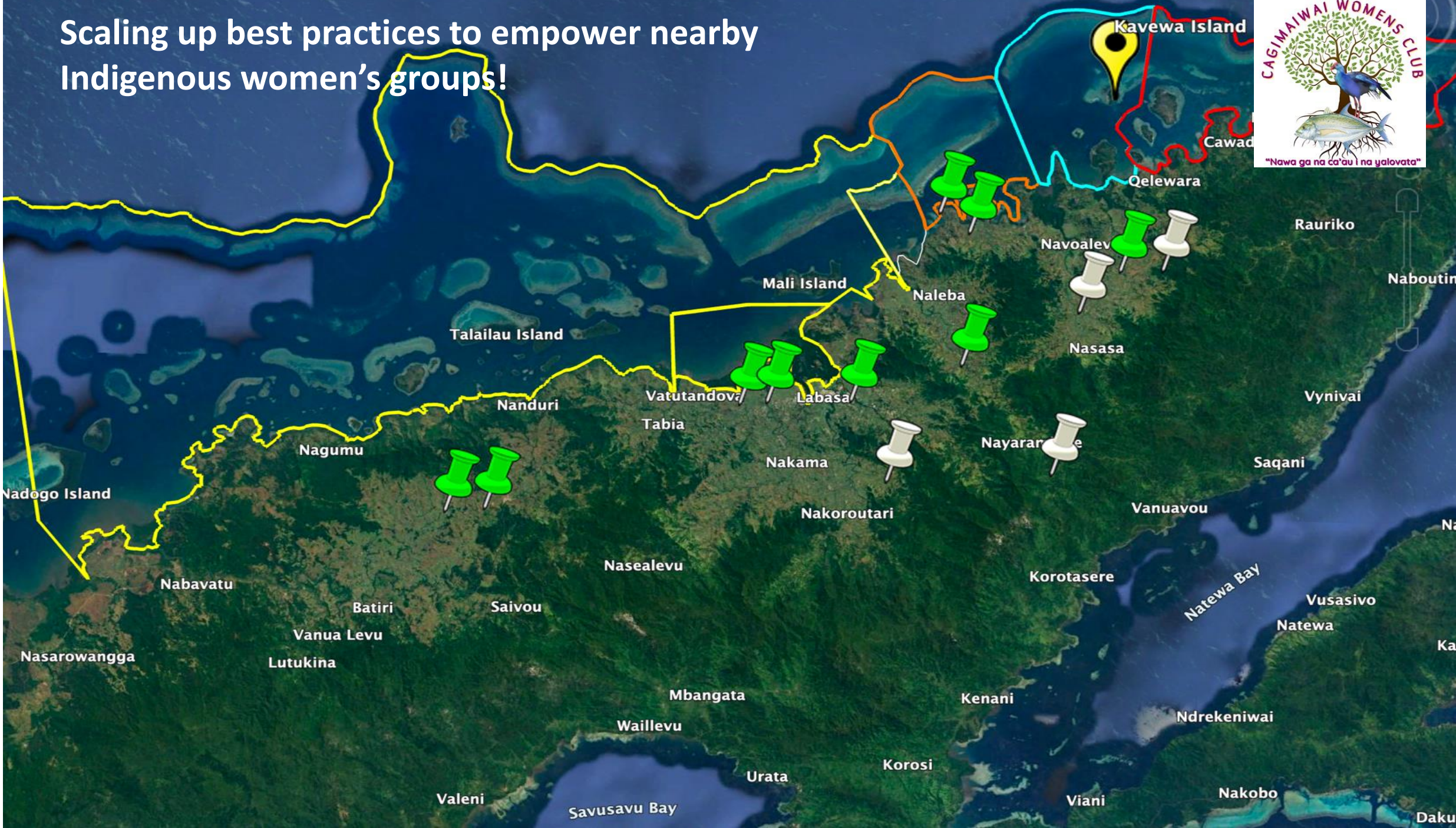
- Communications infrastructure
- Support for identifying market for bio-fertiliser.
- Opportunities for other avenues of livelihoods

-Recently declared our community traditional networks of MPAs covering 64.4 hectares, including turtle nesting island, mangroves, and coral reef marine areas. This declaration showcases our district's unwavering commitment to preserving our natural heritage to address our climate challenges and sustainable development aspirations!

Such MPAs can help support our small scale artisanal fisheries for both men and women in our villages!
Multiple benefits to our community women's groups!



Scaling up best practices to empower nearby Indigenous women's groups!



Recommendations:



The 2023 Inaugural National Symposium for Community Led Initiatives on Environment Sustainability

19th to the 21st of September, 2023

Holiday Inn, Suva Fiji

2023 Kauwai Communique

The 2023 National Symposium for Community led Initiatives on Environment Sustainability held in Suva from the 19th to the 21st of September, brought together representatives from 30 community groups from across Fiji. Themed "Share Your Story", the three-day event engaged participants in storytelling, mutual learning, and relationship-building.

Over the course of these three days, we had the opportunity to exchange our experiences and achievements concerning:

1. Enhancing food security by means of community-driven sustainable fisheries and agriculture practices, aimed at creating thriving, healthy, and resilient communities.
2. Facilitating access to clean energy and energy-efficient technologies for sustainable and resilient development in rural communities.
3. Exploring sustainable urban solutions and strategies for cities towards achieving Fiji's obligations under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Together, we celebrated our collective accomplishments, innovation, gained insights from each other, shared valuable lessons and best practices, and deepened our longstanding cultural and spiritual connections with one another and with our precious land and marine resources.

In our role as the traditional custodians of our land and marine resources, we:

- are proud of our large ocean state and the mammoth task bestowed on us as stewards of our blue continent
- acknowledge our innate connection with the natural world and our responsibility to sustainably manage and use these resources wisely, for the benefit of our present and future generations.
- acknowledge the interconnectedness of the land, rivers, and seas and understand that effectively addressing our current global crisis demands the collective cooperation and collaboration of individuals and communities from diverse sectors and backgrounds
- acknowledge the significance of the ancestral wisdom passed down through generations and the crucial role that traditional knowledge and values play in the preservation and responsible management of our land and marine resources, as well as in our interactions with community members, development partners, government leaders, and other stakeholders.

Kauwai Communique - Collective recommendations from 30 Community representatives who shared our stories and lessons with each other with a call to action –very relevant to this forum!

<https://wwfasia.awsassets.panda.org/downloads/national-symposium-2023-kauwai-communique--1-.pdf>



Sa re - Yalada

