

Training for Samoa Sustainable Tourism Development



**PACIFIC TOURISM
ORGANISATION**





ABOUT SPTO

Our islands are yours to discover.



Mandate: Market and Develop Tourism in the Pacific

Vision: *The Pacific Islands empowered and benefitting from sustainable tourism*

20 Pacific Island Countries + China

Over 140 Private Sector members

3 Strategic Priorities: Marketing, Research & Statistics and Sustainable Tourism

Member of the Council or Regional Organisations of the Pacific

Member of the Global Sustainable Tourism Council

UNWTO and PATA Partner

Multiple Partnerships

We are empowered by, and benefitting from tourism that is resilient, prosperous and inclusive. It improves the wellbeing of our communities and protects, restores and promotes our cultures, islands and ocean ecosystems.

Our Goals

GOAL 1	GOAL 2	GOAL 3	GOAL 4
Prosperous Economies	Thriving and Inclusive Communities	Visible and Valued Cultures	Healthy Islands and Oceans
Tourism supports prosperous and resilient economies	Tourism supports the empowerment and wellbeing of our communities	Tourism amplifies and promotes our culture and heritage	Tourism accelerates climate action, protects our ecosystems and supports resilience

Our Priorities

Establish enabling legislation and policies	Strengthen social inclusion	Protect and promote our cultures	Protect Our Islands, Coastal and Ocean Ecosystems
Create unique destinations supported by quality experiences	Repurpose tourism to deliver greater benefit to Pacific communities	Enable prosperous cultural and creative industries	Build resilience to climate change and transition to a low emission, resource efficient sector
Mobilise sustainable tourism investment			

GOAL 4

Healthy Islands and Oceans

Tourism accelerates climate action, protects our biodiversity and supports resilience.

OUTCOMES:

1. Climate and disaster resilience is embedded in the planning, development and operation of tourism.
2. The industry is supporting and enabling the Pacific's transition to a low emissions economy.
3. Visitors and the industry are contributing to protecting and restoring the Pacific's natural environment.
4. Visitors have greater awareness of the vulnerability of the Pacific's biodiversity and the importance of following best practice guidelines to protect it.
5. Stories about the protection of our islands, people and history are at the heart of Pacific tourism.
6. Tourism enterprises embed sustainability practices in day-to-day operations.
7. The sustainability of tourism is measured and monitored.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS FOR GOAL 4:

Environmental Flows - Industry

- Electricity use, water use, solid waste generation and GHG emissions

Land and Marine Condition

- Number and extent of protected areas

Business Demographics

- Number of businesses participating in biodiversity protection programs
- Number of businesses certified in sustainable tourism practices

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES
AND COMMUNITIES



13 CLIMATE
ACTION



14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



15 LIFE
ON LAND



Introduction

- Coastal environments are biologically productive and ecologically diverse environments that support tourism and livelihood of tourism reliant communities

Objective

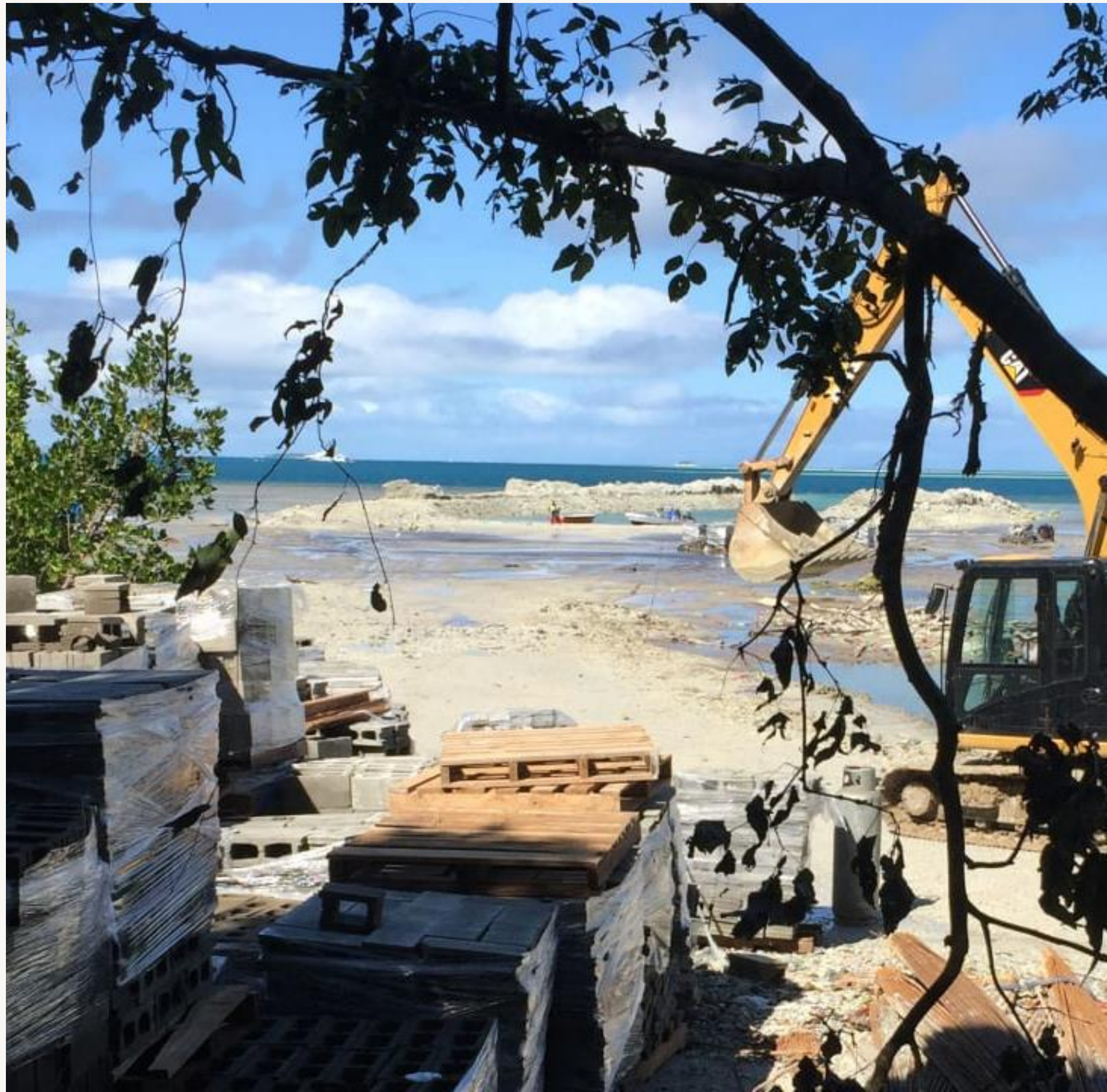
- This presentation identifies sustainable practice in Tourism, case studies on Good / Bad Practices which will provide the training participants with the opportunity to learn.



Disclaimer

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Case Study of Bad Practice: Freesoul Case Malolo Island, Fiji



Background

- In 2018, Freesoul real estate, a Chinese-linked company, began work on Malolo Island, a 5km-long tourist island that lies about 20km west of the main island of Fiji, with plans to build Fiji's largest holiday resort: roughly 350 bures and the nation's first casino.

Environmental Impacts

- Freesoul was accused of causing massive environmental degradation
- Dug a channel 100 metres long and 20 metres wide through the reef to allow barges to bring supplies onto land
- Dumped the coral they dug up onto the pristine beachfront
- Destroyed huge swathes of mangrove and piped sewage directly from their workers' toilet block into the ocean.



Environmental Impacts:

- Loss of Biological diversity in the marine ecosystem and mangroves reliant organisms.
- High concentration of hydraulic oils, fuels, sewer and solid waste

Social Impacts

- Loss of traditional fishing grounds
- Due to the waste, locals have to travel further out to fish - affects livelihoods
- Loss of customary lands / cultural significance.

Freesoul Case Malolo Island, Fiji

- This case study highlights the importance of Compliance and non-compliance
- Freesoul had started works without written approval / permits from the Ministry of Environment.



Environmental Degradation - Freesoul Photo

Solution

A stop work notice was issued by the Department of Environment followed by court case.

Video: Click [here](#) to access link



Sheraton Rarotonga – Cook Islands



BACKGROUND

- This case study will focus on Sheraton Hotel, Cook Islands, Planning for the resort began in 1987, when the Cook Islands Government was approached by an Italian construction company with a proposal to build a luxury hotel.
- Project financier was a Italian Bank that did not recruit locals for the construction but brought Italians Workman.
- The project highlighted environmental consequences of misguided development and debt
- This case highlights the importance of pre-site assessments in the area of hydrology test and a environment impact assessment

Sheraton Rarotonga – Cook Islands



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Environmental Impacts

- Pollution of waterways, solid waste and runoffs were not addressed and as a result, increase of siltation and dead corals

Social Impact

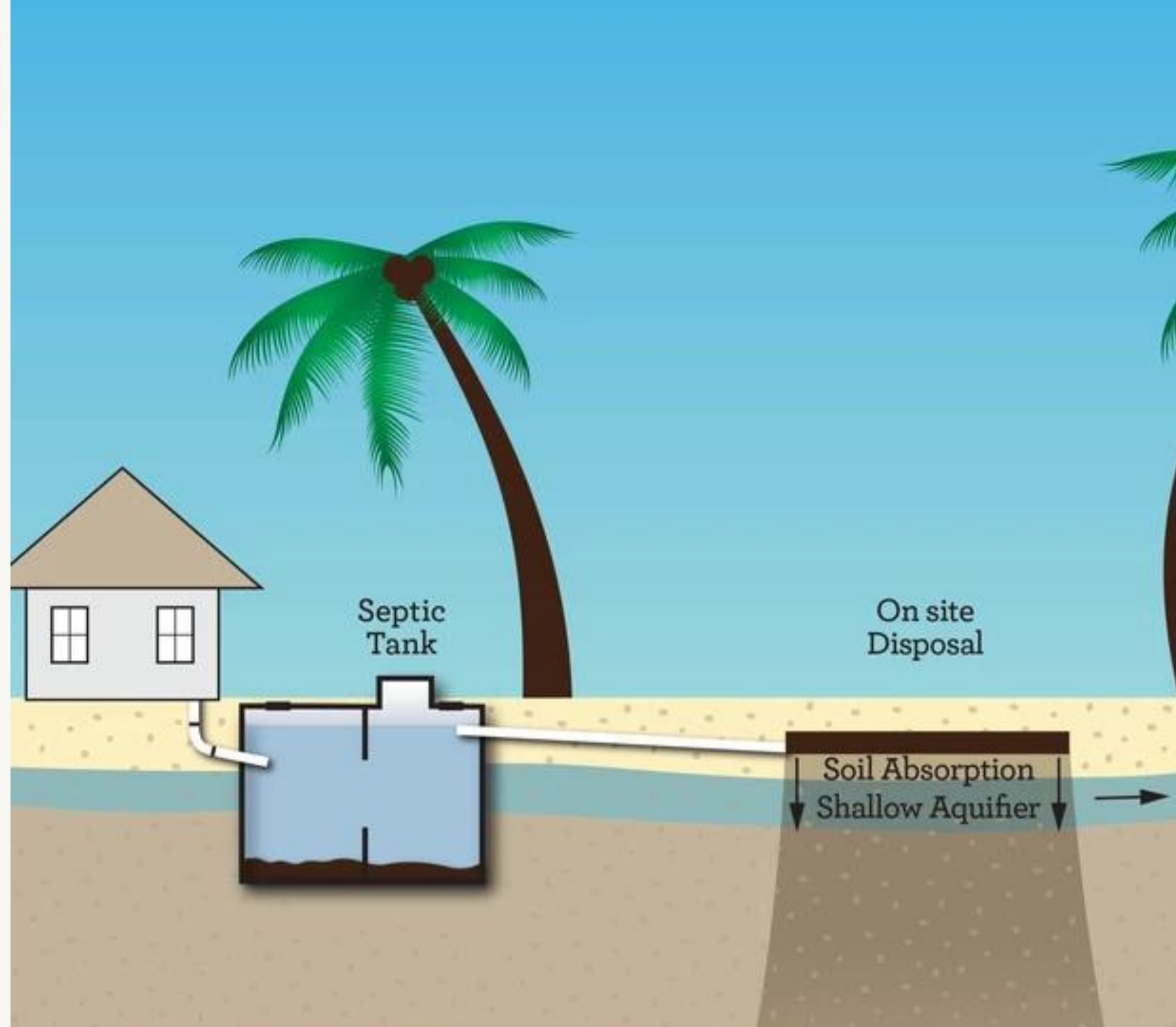
- Opportunities to promote local jobs / - Italians were brought in rather than employing locals for the construction of the project
- Loss of Customary Land
- Due to the impacts induce by the project, locals will have to travel further out to catch a meal
- Politics have a substantial influence over environmental change
- Click [here](#) to access link

Sheraton Rarotonga - Cook Islands



Muri Lagoon : Poor Designs of Septic Tank

Nutrients from septic tanks enter the lagoon



Background

- Muri lagoon and beach access provides Muri's hotels and resorts marine related activities
- Wastewater from septic tanks is polluting Muri lagoon

Environmental Impacts

- Nutrients from septic tanks entering the shallow groundwater and flowing into the sensitive Muri Lagoon are causing the algae problems
- Increase in runoffs, nutrient are a direct result of increasing reliant communities and tourism operators
- Deep groundwater in the basalt rock is isolated from wastewater systems. Water from this basalt aquifer, and deeper parts of the phonolite aquifer, carries higher quantities of nutrients from natural sources. Despite this, it has a lower effect on the environment because it discharges into the lagoon's outer area, where it mixes with lower-nutrient water

Current systems in Muri causing damage of the lagoon

Muri Lagoon : Sewer

How nutrients get into the lagoon

We have found that nutrients from the land flow to the lagoon in four ways:

- In surface streams
- In shallow groundwater within the coral sands
- In a deeper volcanic rock layer called phonolite; and
- In the basement basalt volcanic rock



Muri Lagoon : Sewer



Best Practice

- Decommissioning on-site wastewater systems will help reduce the amount of nutrients going into the lagoon, in particular into the sensitive, still areas where seaweed has become a problem.
- Initial plan proposed was to dredge a channel to increase current flow in Muri lagoon, and remove one of the fishing traps that was seen as an obstruction to current flow in the lagoon
- Natural Selection and process will improve condition, the hotter seasons will take away algae and fish are also feeding on it.
- Video: Click [here](#) to access link

Dark patches of algae spreading in Muri lagoon. Photo: RNZI/Varo Media

The Artificial Reef off Maqai Resort - Qamea, Fiji



Introduction

Maqai Beach Eco Resort is situated on a 99 year Tourism lease of the 5 acre Wainimaqai site, located on the south western tip of Qamea Island, north eastern Fiji (Figure 1). Qamea Island has no roads, all access is by boat.

“Qamea is a land of tropical mountains, rainforest, white sand beaches and true Fijian villages. It has life and culture and traditional island atmosphere. Maqai is a beautiful Qamea beach enclosed by two rocky points, overlooking multiple reef breaks and set at the base of virgin jungle mountainside.

Introduction

The proposal included a ~40 m long breakwater reef to be constructed on the offshore part of the reef flat, directly in front of the main building at the resort. The structure is comprised of Soft Rock geo-containers filled with local sand – Soft Rock. This geo-container material is a non-woven fiber that is proven very robust in the surf-zone and is environmentally inert. The Soft Rock that will be used, which has a tough outer layer of vandal resistant material that is conducive to colonization by marine organisms



The Artificial Reef off Maqai Resort



The artificial reef off Maqai Resort is an eye sore at low tide.

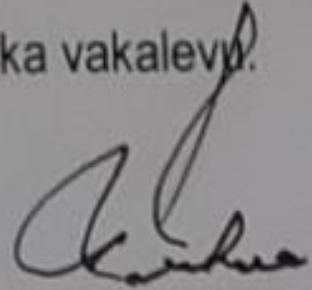
Environmental Impacts and Risk

The development was experimental, pointing out that the impacts could not be known; reef damage was irreversible and carried a high risk of affecting fishing and marine life, on which many people living in the area depend; larger surf breaks could accelerate coastal erosion; and there were no obvious economic benefits or royalties for local villages.

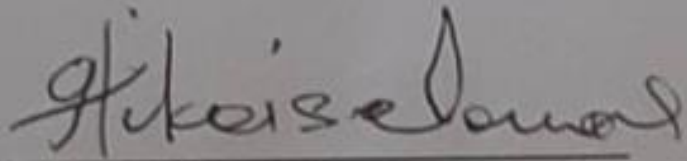
The Artificial Reef off Maqai Resort

We the Vanua of Wainikeli kindly submit the above in withholding our consent.

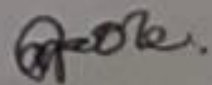
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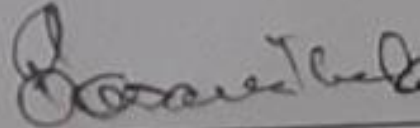
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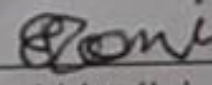
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Penijamini Lawar
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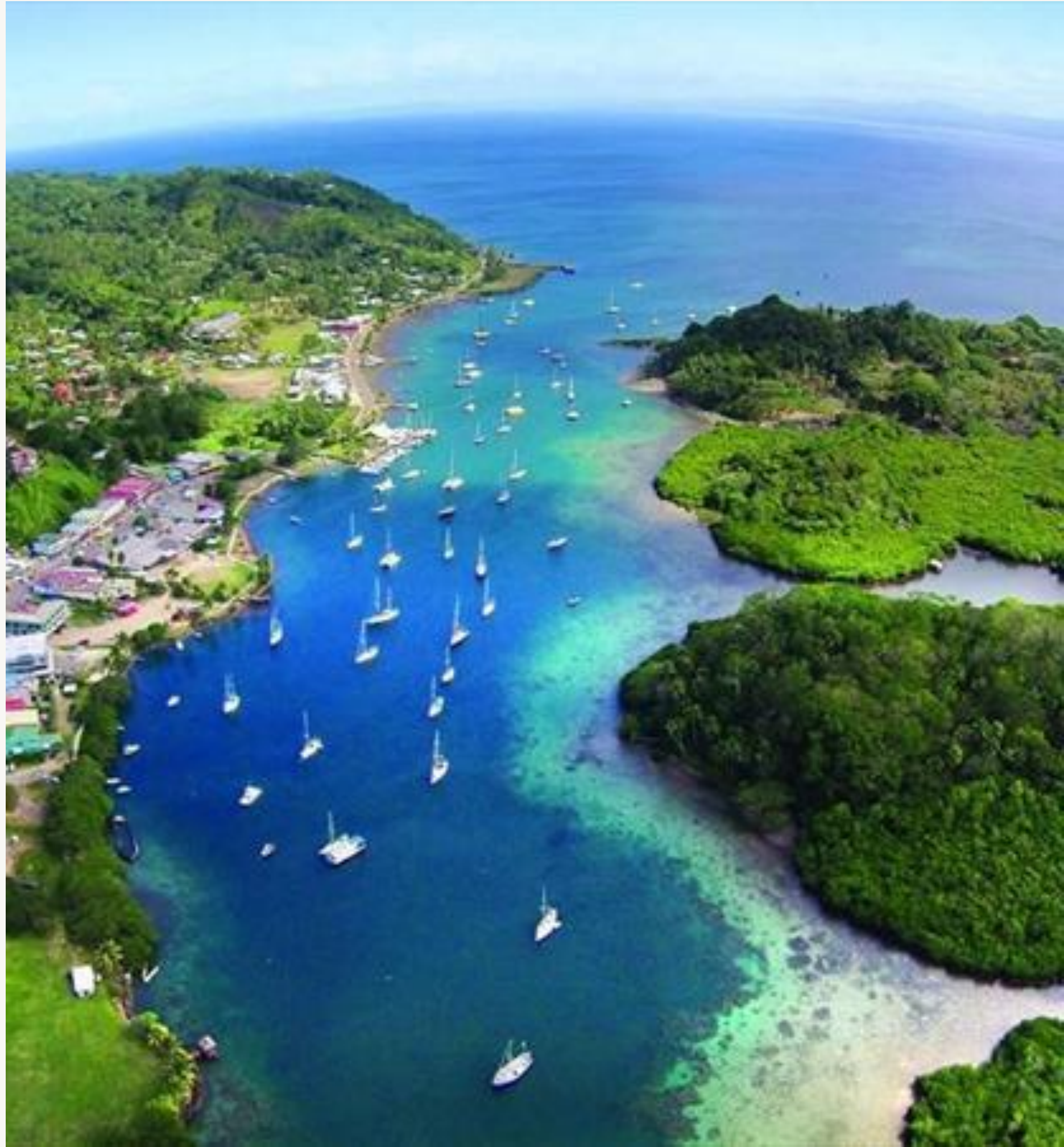


Eroni Vuniivi
Turaga ni Yavusa

On September 29, 2012, the high chiefs wrote to the Honorable Prime Minister to express their “grave concerns and reservations” over the proposed development sites within the surrounding reefs of Taveuni and Qamea. The letter said the project would involve the “cutting, shaving, or modifying coral reefs with heavy equipment to create bigger surfable waves for tourists”.

These reefs have provided food and protection for our ancestors, the current generation, and with your support Sir, would sustain food supply for generations to come

Nawi Island



Introduction

- Nawi Island is off the coast of Savusavu, opposite Savusavu town, in the province of Cakaudrove, the second largest Island of Fiji.
- The Nawi was year marked as
- Nawi Island going green -

Nawi Island Limited (NIL) has also taken great strides and initiative to promote itself as one of the first international green marinas in the world.

This with the focus on renewable energy, sustainable treatment systems, innovative sustainable and organic building materials (Utilize Bamboo), in addition to several other attributes, it would be a zero single-use plastic marina.

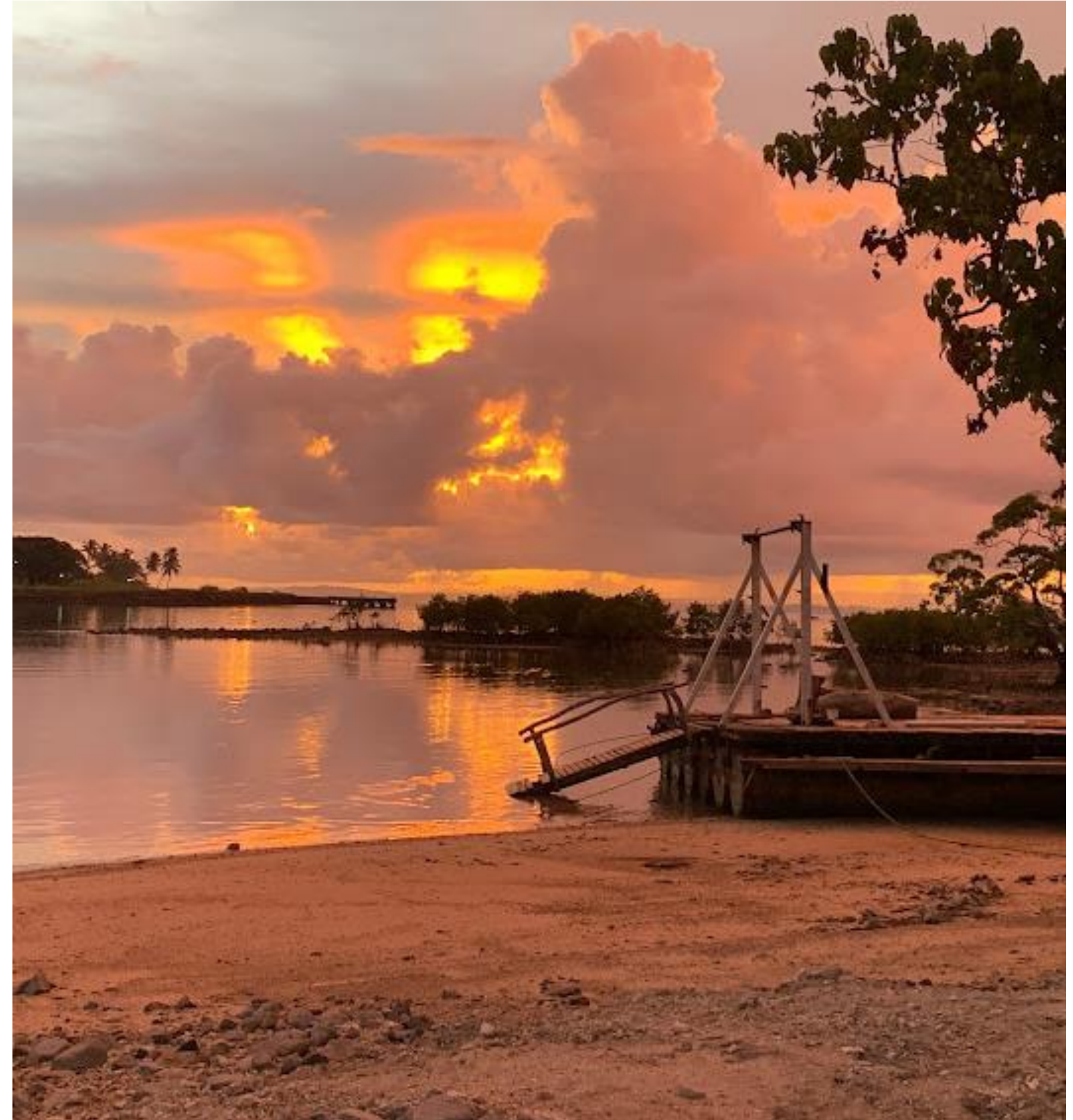
Nawi Island



Associated Construction Impacts

- 10 hectares of mangrove destruction and seabed dredging on Nawi Island in Savusavu. This action threatens local livelihoods, safety, ecology, and the environment.
- Due to seabed dredging, kills almost everything from mollusc, stingrays and other bottom feeders marine organisms
- Video : Click [here](#) to access link

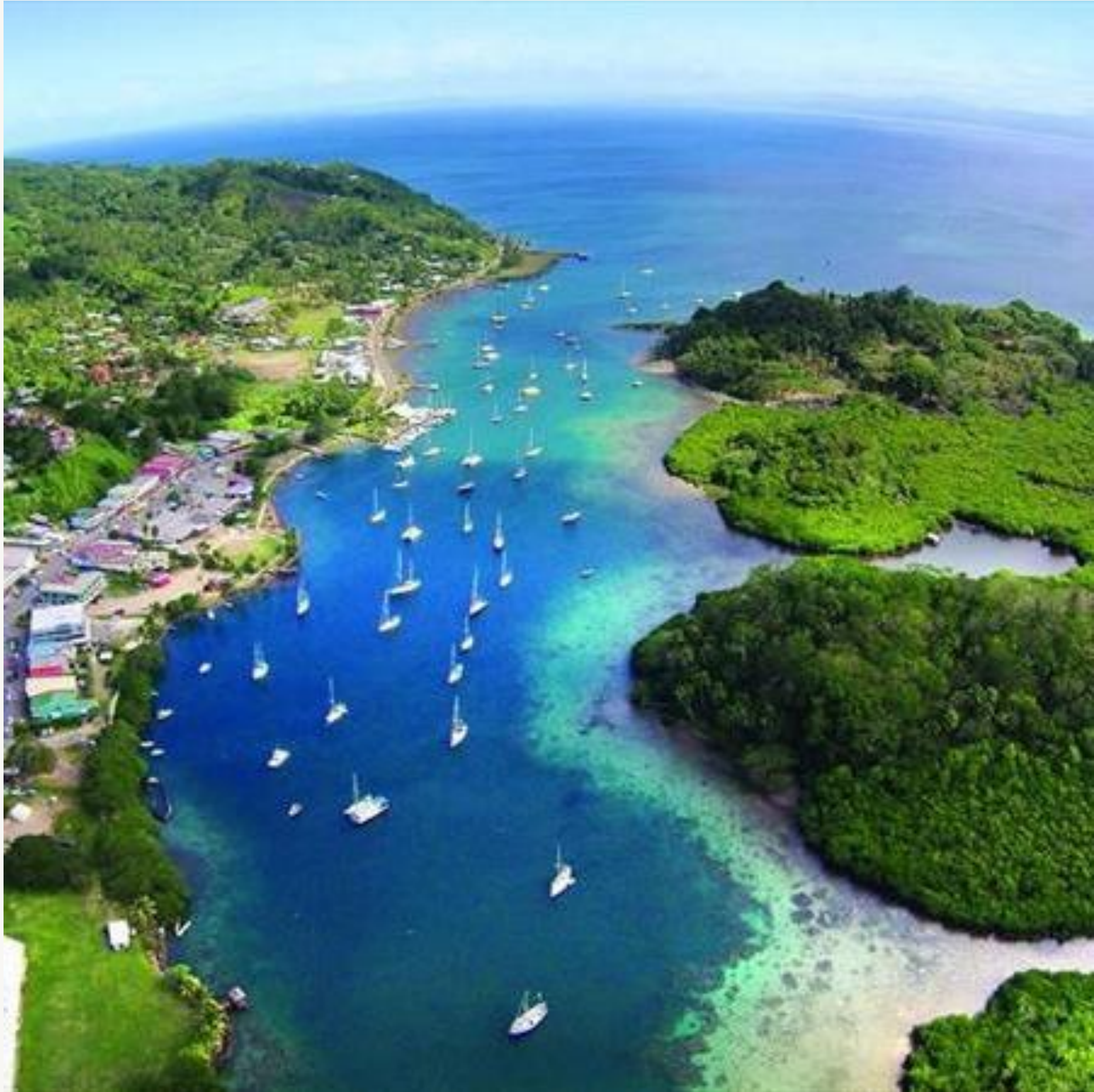
Nawi Island



Nawi Island



Nawi Island- Before - During Construction



Nawi Island - Mitigation works



- The developers of Nawi Island Savusavu understand the importance of sustainable development.
- Their strong commitment has seen one of the first developer to hire a full time marine biologist, Adi Alani Tuivucilevu as an integral member of their team to ensure protection of the marine environment.
- Part of Ms. Tuivucilevu's role is the continuous monitoring of water levels around the development area to ensure that it does not rise to a level which is deemed critical, she also monitors mangrove reforestation and coral planting
- Nawi has also brought in internationally recognized Richard Watling, an independent consultant and environmental expert

Nawi Island - Mitigation works



- Nawi Island's Mangrove Rehabilitation Programme 2015 at the island in Savusavu, Vanua Levu was a great success.
- About 4500 seedlings, known as propagules, to assist in the regeneration of mangroves, were planted by more than 200 students and teachers from five different schools.
- Nawi Island has planted more than 20,000



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Thank
you!