

LajeRotuma Quarter 2 update: June 2013

Noa'ia 'e mauri!

It is now that time of the year to report on progress :) The lull at the start of the year was promise for an eventful one ahead. We have news and field updates from Rotuma on activities led by partner Rotuma Women Association (RWA) in swampland/ wetland restoration. At most times, few stories are shared on happenings LRI becomes involved with on mainland Fiji (or Suva) and will try to share them. So if anyone is willing to share some highlights on events or actions that has potential for LajeRotuma please do so.

Firstly, congratulations to Rupeti! He will graduate on September 5th from Unitec with a Graduate Certificate in Pacific NGO Leadership and Management! Rupeti joined LRI as a volunteer after the 2008 eco-camp:) A former student of Rotuma High School from year 1998-2003. We are proud of his achievement and grateful for Packard and the late Fraser McDonald in ensuring that LajeRotuma continues to be supported in this capacity building programme for CBOs like ours.

The highlights for this quarter are mainly about activities funded by the GIZ/SPC Rano Project and some news bites from the coordination front on upcoming events, planning phase and reporting needs:

* Auditors HN Pande have completed our audit reports for 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012. The first three periods' audit reports have been released and should be up on the link: www.rotuma.net/laje These reports will be shared with GEF SGP as required in our submission for funding and with GIZ/SPC under the Rano project.

* I have been responding to queries on anomalies of receipting for the first 2 tranches of funding (\$20k + \$10k). Lessons learnt on acquittal for the RWA and Rupeti from the field and my keeping accounting records whilst maintaining strict budget lines for only direct costs to the rano work on Rotuma. In sum, total 'receipts accepted' were \$1847.54 ; 'receipts in need of narration' and has been detailed further totaled \$7,472.82 and 'receipts not acceptable' were \$9,282.06. Hopefully, this has been sorted to satisfaction and our understanding of third party receipting on the island is better:)

* The listing of rano activities conducted to date included. Rupeti's field journals can be read at the link: www.rotuma.net/laje. - Fapufa village consultation & replanting program, 15-16, 18-19 April. This village had only 5 families with its 4 men and 1 youth planted 720 papai saplings in marked areas for monitoring of its growth in the coming months. - Paptea school ponds restoration, 10 June that was meant to coincide with World Oceans Day on June 8. - Itumuta rano focus group consultation & district plan to rehabilitate 7 of the 16 rano spots in district boundary during 20, 25-27 June.

* On behalf of LajeRotuma, invitations to present during the following events (info notes attached): - USAID Adapt Asia Pacific Climate Financing Resource Week, 2-4 June. Parallel Session on 'Direct Budget, Sector and Project Support'. This was a co-presentation with GEF SGP drawing from our experiences of climate-linked funding support mainly under the SGP. -

2013 Joint Meeting of the Pacific Platform for Disaster Risk Management, 7-9 July. Side event
1. Combining the sciences for risk management. My participation is supported by SPREP:)

* Birdlife International- there is ongoing discussion to explore research needs for birdlife on Rotuma; the kind of technical support LRI would require in providing valuable input to status reporting of birds globally. Such interest is fueled from the endemic Rotuman myzomela and key bird areas on the surrounding islets. LRI

* Planned events that did not happen on the island was the RHS Climate Camp scheduled for Term 2 holidays due to persistent wet weather and a backlog of passengers on the trusted air service by Pacific Sun:) This planned activity will be revisited for later in the year. The other was the Motusa/Hapmafau rano community consultation which has yet to happen due to the complex ownership status coupled with resource owners living away or long-time absentees from Rotuma.

For upcoming events and asks, I am humbly asking for volunteers to assist in the following: 1. Prep for a planning meeting amongst the core team, possibly in early August. So please do send me your dates for availability and time preferences:) 2. Organising of our annual general meeting with the urban community. 3. Contributions for the annual report, 2012-2013.

Until the next quarterly update in September.

Alalum