

# ROTUMA VISIONING MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

**Lead implementing organisation:** Rotuma Affairs Unit- Council of Rotuma & LājeRotuma Initiative, Republic of the Fiji Islands

## **Organisation background :**

LājeRotuma (LRI) is a community-based environmental Initiative aimed at informing, strengthening capacity of its own community to make informed decisions and mobilising community to manage well natural resources on Rotuma Island. LājeRotuma is locally governed by the island community and promotes ownership of sustainable resource management actions that foster community spirit to protect a shared natural (and cultural) heritage.

LājeRotuma recognises the use and conservation of island biodiversity as an integral part of its culture, inseparable from its ethical and aesthetic values or from its socio-economic reality. However, shift in value and use of natural resources accelerates the loss of Rotuman resource use knowledge and practices important to biodiversity conservation and sustainable development. Evidently, there is limited understanding on the role of leadership and management systems within the fabric of island living. In an information technology era where value comes increasingly from the knowledge of people, this governance and code of practices seems lacking on the island.

## **In context:**

Leadership and management principles compliment. Leaders lead people i.e. to inspire and motivate. Managers manage tasks i.e. plan, organize and coordinate.

A mutual relationship such as the above depicts how things should be on the island in understanding the code of practices relating to the governing structure that begins from the household unit to *ho'aga* to village to district level, Council and communicated via the Ahau administration through the ranks of national government line departments.

In his 1989 book "On Becoming a Leader," Warren Bennis composed a list of the differences between principles of management and leadership:

- The manager administers; the leader innovates.
- The manager is a copy; the leader is an original.
- The manager maintains; the leader develops.
- The manager focuses on systems and structure; the leader focuses on people.
- The manager relies on control; the leader inspires trust.
- The manager has a short-range view; the leader has a long-range perspective.
- The manager asks how and when; the leader asks what and why.
- The manager has his or her eye always on the bottom line; the leader's eye is on the horizon.
- The manager imitates; the leader originates.

- The manager accepts the status quo; the leader challenges it.
- The manager is the classic good soldier; the leader is his or her own person.
- The manager does things right; the leader does the right thing.

There is total reliance by the island community on government assistance with limited civic engagement except services provided by LäjeRotuma's education and awareness outreach-research program. The spectrum of partners being scoped and in various discussion phases hope to capture much of the needed orientation needs for the schedule of activities proposed. At this stage, the collective activities will be in three phases and this first step of recognising lack of understanding leadership roles and responsibilities frames the listed activities below:

1. Workshop for Chiefs [2 days]
2. Leadership Training-Youths 2012 [Part I & Part II]

**Proposed dates for initial phase:** late July - August Term 2 School holidays, 2012

**Project goals :**

The link between adaptation and development is particularly relevant when seeking to enhance the capacity of people and communities to make informed decisions on managing limited island resources. Adaptation is primarily a local process which means that technology and solutions need to suit local conditions and that local capacity must be developed to use and build resilience of island life. In the context of this concept proposal, two main goals in collaboration with other key stakeholders (national and island) are:

*Adaptation is taking action to manage the unavoidable.*

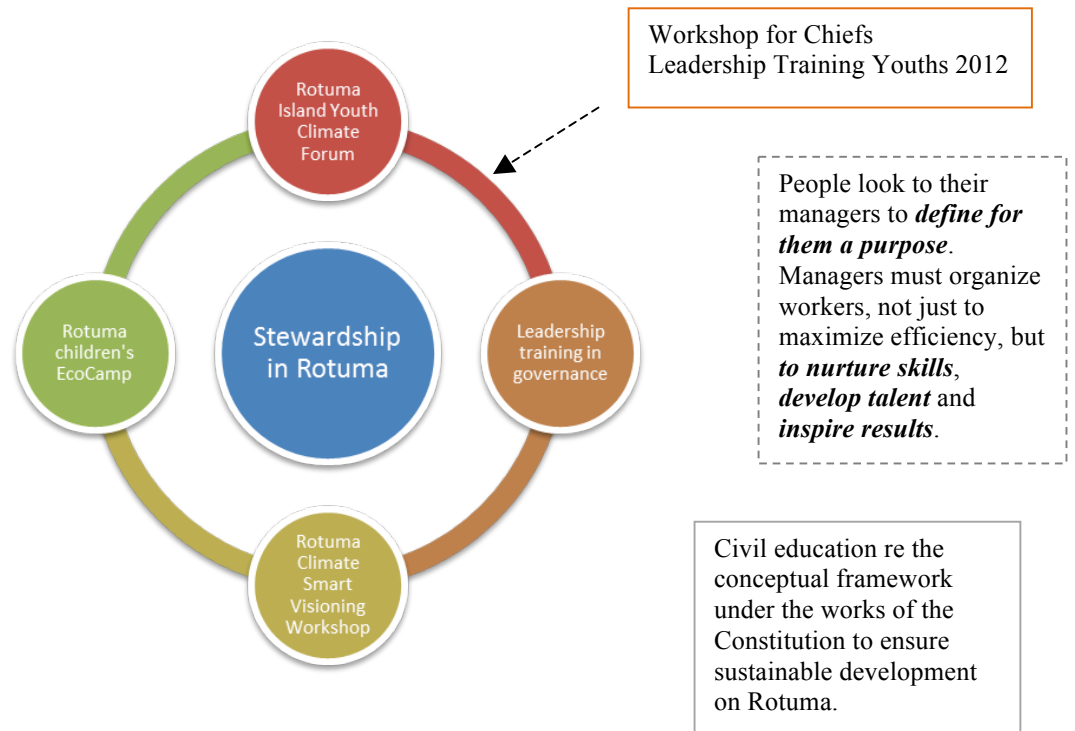
*Sustainable development*

*Building resilience is about security of our environment, our food and our health*

1. To conduct a series of leadership management activities across all social groups on the island- women, children, youth and the village/district leaders.
2. To investigate and document the extent of how women and children understand the varied manifestations of climate change to their families' livelihoods, health, education, emotional wellbeing and aspirations, thus increasing their state of vulnerability.
3. To engage all social groups on the island in the planning process of a climate smart Rotuma Integrated Sustainable Development Plan.

**Proposed Approach (into phases) :**

Stewardship is an ethic (ie. moral principles that governs our behaviour) that embodies responsible planning and management of resources. The proposed key activities (4) addresses emerging issues of leadership and management of the island resources including her people affecting stewardship roles on Rotuma.



**Amount requested and needed for the implementation Phase I: \$20,000** excl. operation costs

**PHASE I:**

Project Activity	Objectives	Expected Outputs/ Outcomes	Forecasted costs in FJD
1. Workshop for Chiefs (2 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To discuss pending changes of Rotuma Lands Decree and Rotuma Decree</li> <li>To explore and document the traditional leadership today- its problems and challenges</li> </ul>	<p><b>Rotuma Decree-</b> understanding roles and functions of the Council of Rotuma</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A forum for community to discuss the roles and functions of the Council of Rotuma</li> <li>Better understanding the process of appointing a district chief</li> <li>Outline a process for conflict resolution at the district level-Council of Rotuma</li> </ul> <p><b>Rotuma Lands Decree-</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Land registration on maternal and paternal sides</li> <li>Establishment of Rotuma Lands Commission; its functions</li> <li>Appeals process against decision of the Lands Commission</li> </ul>	

2. Leadership Training –Youth 2012	<p>PART 1 -To provide a forum for the youths to express their views and opinions in an open conducive environment on the subject <b><i>“Is traditional leadership relevant today?”</i></b></p> <p>PART 2- To organise a joint session and conscience voting process on the subject <b><i>“If you wish to know what development programmes are to be developed to the village ask the villagers!”</i></b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gained confidence in public speaking and research capabilities whilst participating and engaging at village, district meetings and larger open forums.</li> <li>• Given the statement- a documentation of the youth forum’s views on the development programmes that are going on in Rotuma.</li> </ul>	
3. Rotuma schools Ecocamp (2 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To engage children in active learning about island environment</li> <li>• In partnership with the Rotuma Women Association work with the children on creating an interactive model of Rotuma island.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model of Rotuma Island</li> <li>• EcoCamp report</li> </ul>	\$2,000

#### PHASE II: Last quarter 2012-2013

Project Activity	Objectives	Expected Outputs/ Outcomes	Forecasted costs in FJD
4. Leadership training in governance (3 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To improve understanding of roles and responsibilities of the leadership groups in villages-districts-Council administration</li> <li>• To train the above group in leadership and management skills</li> <li>• To make productive the specific strengths and knowledge of every individual staff of the Council of Rotuma</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Efficient delivery of services</li> <li>• Committed to explore self-reliant alternatives rather than dependence on government-assistance</li> </ul>	\$10,000
5. Rotuma youth island forum (2.5 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To organize a panel of speakers to share information, experiences on emerging issues key to youth development</li> <li>• To organize skills workshop groups for youths including mural painting</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set of resolutions for inclusion during the Visioning workshop</li> <li>• Voices of tomorrow mural</li> </ul>	\$3,000
6. Rotuma Climate smart visioning workshop (3 days)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To develop a Rotuma Strategic development plan</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Outline a framework for action to address the objectives of the plan</li> <li>• Draft a Climate smart Strategic Development Plan for Rotuma</li> <li>• Report of the proceedings</li> </ul>	\$5,000

**PHASE III: Implementation of Rotuma Development Plan 5-10 years (to be determined during the process of consultation).**

**Project justification on Island model making– explain how this activity relates to emerging issues on climate change, its impacts, adaptation and island development :**

The extent to which small island remote communities are vulnerable to climate change depends in part on the magnitude and rate of climate change and its consequent impacts but also on their adaptive capacity. This adaptive capacity is often limited by lack of resources, poor institutions and inadequate infrastructure. For instance, the remote small island of Rotuma is in the throes of development due to a recent declaration by the Fiji government to be an international port of entry and LājeRotuma under its 'Reviving a culture of biodiversity conservation' initiative, to building a climate resilient island community aims to broaden the knowledge base and management capacity by drawing from the modern science (climate change) and indigenous knowledge.

The uncertainties surrounding the manifestation of climate change often make it difficult to project the extent and future impacts of climate change at the island level. Over the years, LājeRotuma have been engaging with target groups of youth, women and children in schools with an age range between 6-17 years old during its island community outreach with the basic belief to strengthen community capacity to address sustainability issues. This is by encouraging public awareness and village focused activities; enhancing community participation for maximum stakeholder involvement and commitment. Innovatively, the proposed activities will specifically work with the women and children in schools in gathering stories on real-time, local observations about how the

changing climate and seasons affect their daily life on Rotuma. The climate witness stories captured will then devise efforts more relevant to each group of people in coping with these observed natural changes. That is, the listing of stories from the women and youth focus groups will outline priority concerns and opportunities for the framework of actions that will support their social roles in the community. The children in the four primary and Rotuma High School on has an ongoing 'Adopt-a-habitat' outreach program for which an annual ecocamp, mural art sessions, seagrass-beach-coral reef watch and forest walks engage the children to observe natural changes and possible impacts of seasonal and climate changes of their natural environment.

***List of potential partners/resource persons: PHASE II***

1. Aha government station stakeholders
2. Consumer Council of Fiji
3. Fiji Disabled Peoples Association
4. FemLINKpacific
5. Pacific Conference of Churches
6. TPAF/NTPC
7. Commissioner Eastern Office
8. NDMO/ PCIDRR
9. SOPAC/WASH /DRM Programme
10. National Trust of Fiji
11. FDB- Sustainable Financing for Energy
12. NCSMED- Financial Literacy
13. Fiji Arts Council
14. Min. Youth and Sports, Education, Health
15. Min. Primary Industries- Dept. Forestry, Fisheries, Land Resources Planning Division
16. National Food and Nutrition Centre
17. Possible donor agencies- GEF SGP, AusAID, British High Commission

**Other Comments:**

There is growing international recognition that local, community-based initiatives are the key to achieving sustainable development of which building climate resilient communities is a core objective.

For the Rotuma collaboration with other island communities in Fiji will build on existing initiatives amongst the island groups whereby LäjeRotuma has been engaged in the planning and assisting in the implementation of community-based initiatives at Naviti and Cikobia.

Plans to travel to Rotuma by some of the key core members of LäjeRotuma during this period in conjunction with its efforts to celebrate and reflect on the initiative's 10 years of efforts on Rotuma island. This strategic approach for a cultural exchange with other similar island communities elsewhere namely Koro, Cikobia and Naviti to share lessons is built on principles of developing a common national identity and building social cohesion, ensuring sustainable democracy and good, just governance, achieving higher economic growth while ensuring sustainability (Key Pillars for Rebuilding Fiji).

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