



Local time 10:34:10 am

Search
Stories, photos, and more
[FIJI NEWS](#) [BUSINESS](#) [FIJI SPORTS](#) [ENTERTAINMENT](#) [PROMOTIONS](#) [LETTERS](#) [COMMENT](#) [GALLERY](#) [ARCHIVES](#) [WEATHER](#) [CLASSIFIED](#)
[Home](#) > [News](#)

Villagers meet on environment

9/30/2010

About 20 qoliqoli (traditional fishing grounds) committee members from Kubulau district, Bua, met at Savusavu to discuss marine and terrestrial resource use.

Kubulau district has taken the lead in Fiji to use "ridge to reef" approach to manage its resources.

This approach looks at managing all the habitats from the land, freshwater, coastal and marine. It is important to manage all the habitats together because they are connected.

The qoliqoli committee is now into the second phase of training in which members will learn the importance of their natural resources and why they have to protect them.

They will then go back and teach their own villagers and try to drive dialogue and build consensus towards sustainable management.

Feedback on their first training provided evidence that the committee has the knowledge to implement the actions from their management plan.

Nasasaivua Village committee member Jone Qurai said the villagers listened to what was said and some were amazed at what was presented to them.

"They were taught the importance of our coral reefs, fish and the effects of using weedicides and manure," he said.

"We used to just throw our rubbish into the sea because we thought the sea was so vast it could just take them away.

"Now, we have seen how they collect on our shores and make it an eyesore.

"If you come to our village now, we have two village pits to put in our rubbish and our beaches are so clean because we all worked together to clean the beach."

Apolosi Tuivanuayalewa of Nadivakarua Village said after they spoke to villagers who constructed pig pens along the coast, the pens were pulled out and moved inland.

He said what helped in their campaign was the support of their chief Ratu Peni Rasigare.

"They now know the bad effects of having those pig pens because they kill corals and encourage the growth of algae from their waste, which is full of nutrients. All the pig pens have now been moved inland," he said.

Tikina Kubulau chief Ratu Apenisa Vuki who opened the workshop said it was important that people were encouraged to work together and have respect for each other.

This is if they were to save their resources now and for their generations to come.

"It is important to teach community members about their resources so that they can effectively manage them," said Wildlife Conservation Society project co-ordinator Sunil Prasad.

Module 1 of the training took place in June and participants learned how to make presentations and the appropriate communication tools to use.

The first part of Module 2 of the training will focus on importance of sustainable forest management and the role of the Logging Code of Practice, the Forest Decree, and the Environmental Management Act.

The second part will address: 1) the importance and types of cetaceans in Fiji; 2) importance and basic biology of marine invertebrates; and 3) importance of turtles.

The workshop is being co-ordinated by Coral with the support of Wildlife Conservation International, Partners in Community Development Fiji and SeaWeb.

(Ms Nakeke is a programme associate for SeaWeb, which is a non-profit communications organisation that promotes a healthy ocean and connects scientists with the media on marine conservation).