

# Yaubula Management Support Teams



**PRESENTATION TO FIJI  
ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION  
JULY 10, 2013**

# I'Taukei (Fijian) Affairs Board



- Established in 1945 through passage of the Fijian Affairs Act (Cap 120) in the Fiji Parliament.
- Board's mandate is to “...provide for the peace, order, welfare and good government of Fijians”
- Statutory “arm” of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs
- Prime Minister is Minister of iTaukei Affairs and Chair of iTaukei Affairs Board

# I'Taukei Affairs Board



Has traditionally been focused on native Fijians



# I'Taukei Affairs Board





## **What does TAB do?**

- **Manages 14 provincial offices throughout Fiji, including all provincial staff**
- **Extensive training program – leadership, good governance, fiscal management, etc.**
- **Scholarship Fund**



- Direct support to communities in a variety of ways – village establishment, bylaws governance, etc.
- Investment of community funds.



# Conservation and i'Taukei Affairs



**90% of land  
in Fiji  
owned by  
indigenous  
Fijians**



## **Why is conservation important for TAB?**

- The future of Fiji's environment depends on good management by i'Taukei people
- Can be mataqali-focused rather than ecosystem-focused
- Level of awareness regarding environmental issues varies, so approach to land and marine management varies
- Clear threats to Fiji's lands and waters





**TAB**

**Conservation  
Unit**

- Established in 2012
- Responds to Environment Management Unit requirement in Environment Management Act:
  15. (1) The chief executive officer of a Ministry, department, statutory authority or local authority may, if required by the Department, establish a unit responsible for environmental management.
- Part of role of Conservation Unit is to support establishment of YMSTs

# YMSTs are key to I'Taukei Affairs Board Strategic Plan 2013-2015



- **Policy Objective 2.4 - Give priority to the protection of environment, sustainable management and utilisation of natural resources**
  - **2.4.1 – Encourage the establishment of Yaubula Management Support Teams in each Province.**
  - 2.4.2 – To encourage and facilitate natural resource management and conservation.
  - 2.4.3 – To monitor and report the exploitation of natural resources and environment.

# **What is a Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST)?**



- A YMST is a community-based organization that works to protect natural resources.
- YMSTs can be at the Provincial Level, Tikina/Vanua Level, and Yavusa/Village Level.
- YMSTs are the caretaker of resource management programs for the Province, Vanua or Yavusa.

# RIDGE TO REEF





# History of YMSTs



- **Early 2000's:**  
Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network (FLMMA) initiated the idea of establishing YMSTs in places where active marine management was happening.
- **2003:**  
Fisheries, I'Taukei Affairs Board, USP, FLMMA partnered to initiate YMST establishment in several Provinces, Tikinas and Islands. FLMMA and USP took the lead.

# YMSTs Today



- Today, there are functioning YMSTs all over Fiji. Locations include:
  - Kadavu Provincial YMST
  - Cakaudrove Provincial YMST
  - Koro Island YMST
  - Gau Island YMST
  - Northern Lau YMST
  - Rewa YMST
  - Waima Tikina YMST (Naitasiri)
- I'Taukei Affairs Board now taking the lead, in partnership with Institute of Applied Sciences, to support YMSTs.



Kadavu Yaubula Management Support Team



Roko Tui Cakaudrove Establishing the Cakaudrove YMST





Wailevu YMST  
(Cakaudrove) working to  
protect sea cucumbers



## **What is the role of YMST's?**

- Respond to requests for development.
- Engage in EIA processes.
- Conduct environmental awareness in villages.
- Work with supporting government agencies, NGOs, etc.
- Create Natural Resource Management plans.
- Conduct monitoring surveys.
- Create/manage Marine Protected areas and Forest Protected areas.



## YMSTs and the law...

- Environmental Management Act established National Environment Council
  - Ministry of I’Taukei Affairs is a member
- EMA requires Council to establish a national Resource Owners Committee
  - Section 8 (4) “The Council shall establish a Resource Owners Committee to advise the council on any environment matter affecting their resources”



## YMSTs and the law...

- YMSTs are provincial/local arms of the Resource Owners Committee
  - Cart before the horse...
- YMSTs as of now have no legal authority
  - Ex. Developers have no legal responsibility to consult YMSTs during EIA process



**Provincial Council  
Bose ni Yasana**



**Provincial Yaubula Management Support Team**



**Vanua Yaubula Management Support Team**



**Yavusa Yaubula Management Support Team**

**Tecnical Assistance and Support**  
(NGOs, Universities, Government Departments, etc)

**Members of YMSTs....**

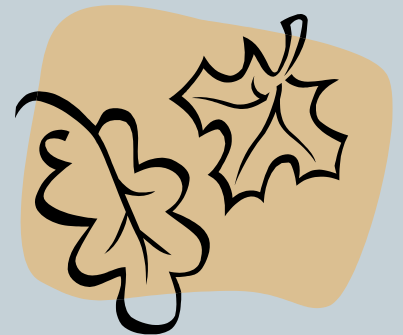
**Roko Tui – Chair  
Conservation Officer – Secretary  
Vanua representatives  
Womens representative  
Youth representative  
Schools representative  
Health worker representative  
Civil Servants  
Etc.**

**Tecnical  
Assistance and  
Support  
(NGOs,  
Universities,  
Government  
Departments, etc)**

# TAB is here to support YMSTs



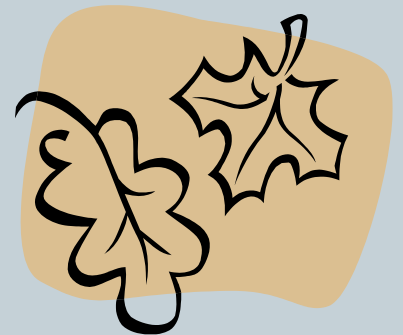
1. Education and Awareness
2. Building Capacity
3. Collecting Data and Developing Policy
4. Strengthening Partnerships



# 4 Pillars of TAB Support for YMSTs



1. **Education and Awareness**
2. **Building Capacity**
3. **Collecting Data and Developing Policy**
4. **Strengthening Partnerships**







## **Pillar #1**

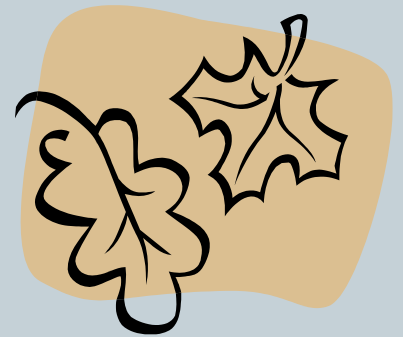
# **Education And Awareness**

1. **Development of YMST trainings**
  - Dec 5-6 – YMST workshop in partnership with FLMMA
  - September 2013– YMST workshop for all new YMSTs
2. **Development of Conservation Handbook as a resource for YMSTs.**

# 4 Pillars of TAB Conservation Program



1. Education and Awareness
2. **Building Capacity**
3. Developing Policy and Collecting Data
4. Strengthening Partnerships





## **Pillar #2**

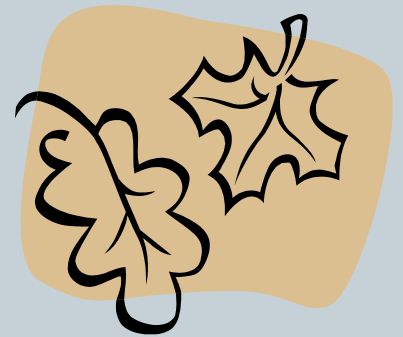
### **Building Capacity**

1. **Hiring Provincial Conservation Officers for all Provinces**
  - Kadavu and Ra provinces in place
  - Currently hiring for Serua and Lau
  - Funding approved for Bua, Macuata, Cakaudrove and Rewa
  - Lomaiviti expected to be approved soon

# 4 Pillars of TAB Conservation Program



1. Education and Awareness
2. Building Capacity
3. Collecting Data and Developing Policy
4. Strengthening Partnerships





## **Pillar #3**

### **Collecting Data and Developing Policy**

#### **Collecting Data**

- Compiling conservation database for each province
- This can be used as an important reference for all YMSTs.

#### **Developing Policy**

- Where new policies are needed, TAB will work with YMSTs to create them.
  - Example: Relocation Policy



## **Pillar #3**

### **Collecting Data and Developing Policy**

#### **Developing Policy**

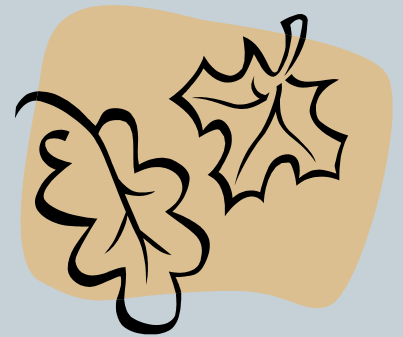
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# 4 Pillars of TAB Conservation Program



1. Education and Awareness
2. Building Capacity
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4. Strengthening Partnerships





## **Pillar #4**

### **Strengthening Partnerships**

- TAB is working with key conservation partners, helping to provide a link to YMSTs.
- **Key Conservation Partners**
  - NGO community
    - ✦ FLMMA
    - ✦ Wildlife Conservation Society
    - ✦ World Wildlife Fund
    - ✦ Nature Fiji- Mareqeviti
    - ✦ Conservation International
    - ✦ Coral Reef Alliance



## **Pillar #4**

### **Strengthening Partnerships**

- **Key Conservation Partners cont'**
  - **Other Line Ministries**
    - ✦ Ministry of I'Taukei Affairs
    - ✦ Ministry of Foreign Affairs
    - ✦ Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry
    - ✦ Ministry of Agriculture
    - ✦ Department of the Environment
  - **Universities – USP and FNU**
  - **Funding institutions**
    - ✦ UNDP Small Grants Program
    - ✦ AusAID
    - ✦ Packard
    - ✦ US AID
    - ✦ GIZ



## **Future of YMSTs**

- How do we provide them with more authority?
- How do we require engagement of YMSTs in EIA process?
- How do we secure longevity and make them most successful?



**YMSTs are  
key to  
protection  
of Fiji's  
natural  
resources**





**Vinaka Vakalevu**

