FIJI WATER PROJECT

9 Nakauvadra mountain range, Fiji





ECOSYSTEM TYPE: Dry tropical forests

PROJECT SIZE: 1,135 hectares

RESTORATION METHODS:

Native and non-native, non-invasive tree planting

PROJECT DATES:

2009 - 2018

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The Nakauvadra Mountain Range, an area of high biological diversity, is surrounded by *talasiga* grasslands, which have been slowly encroaching into the mountains following uncontrolled burning and unsustainable land clearing. This project was implemented near the Nakauvadra Range in order to increase the buffer zone between the forest and the agricultural fields. The project had a strong community component, and used conservation agreements to bring people together and identify co-benefits to restoration. In exchange for certain social services, like support for the installation of electricity, funds to build a tree nursery, and training in commercial tree management, the local community agreed to set aside a portion of their communally owned land and assist in its replanting. The project is now being used as a model for restoration in Fiji, and is spreading to a neighboring mountain basin.

PROJECT OUTCOMES, AS OF 2018:

Climate:

23,000 metric tonnes CO₂ sequestered since 2009.

People:

300 people were directly employed through the project; 6 community nurseries and 35 beehives were established; 2,500 people saw livelihood improvements.

Biodiversity:

By expanding forest cover for several rare, endangered and endemic species the fauna and flora diversity within the project zone has seen drastic increases.



2009 – pre-restoration



2017 – restoration continues

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