



Togitogiga falls, Samoa. ©SOPAC

## WANI strengthens water management in Fiji and Samoa

Pacific Islands are experiencing increasing pressures on water resources due to growing populations, infrastructure development, and climatic fluctuations. The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), member and partner organisations are strengthening forces to support Integrated Water Resource Management in Oceania region.

Through four demonstration projects, IUCN's Water and Nature Initiative (WANI) focuses on good governance, payments for ecosystem services, and learning and leadership, with the aim to improve the quality and sustainability of water resources in the region.

The initiative started in the Pacific in 2008 with the establishment and initial development of WANI projects in Kadavu and the Nadi Basin in Fiji, and the Togitogiga Watershed in Samoa. Complementing the three WANI projects, is the Pacific Learning and Leadership project in collaboration with SOPAC (Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission) Regional Pacific IWRM projects.

IUCN aims to support the management of Fiji's water resources and watershed ecosystem services, currently in decline due to land use changes, altered river flow patterns and degraded ecosystem services. These problems are compounded by effects, like altered rainfall patterns, of climate change.

Water management in Fiji, including tourism and forestry projects, has generally followed a "top-down" approach. WANI's Kadavu and Nadi watershed projects aim to demonstrate a watershed management model based upon participatory community approaches, sound economic valuation and ecosystem management benefitting biodiversity and the livelihoods that depend on them.

For the Nadi project, WANI helped establish the Nadi Basin Catchment Committee to provide appropriate stakeholder engagement in the development of a Flood Risk Management Plan and complements the Regional GEF Pacific IWRM's Nadi Catchment Project.

In Kadavu, three Locally Managed Marine Area Networks (LMMA) sites provided the location for work to begin on up-scaling the participatory model to include ridge-to-reef management. This bottom-up model will provide a cost-effective and integrated sustainable water resource management approach that can be replicated to other sites in Fiji, and the Pacific.



Villages on Nakata waterfall, Kadavu, Fiji. ©IUCN

The Togitogiga Catchment is WANI's selected demonstration project in Samoa. Located on the eastern Upolu Island, Togitogiga is the main source of water supply for downstream communities and has a unique biodiversity. It is also well known for recreational purposes as part of the "Togitogiga National Park". This catchment area has become significantly degraded due to increasing population and development pressures, soil erosion, sedimentation, and water pollution. The project also aims to develop and implement a watershed management plan that creates a balance between anthropogenic demands on the catchment and biodiversity conservation.

Experiences and lessons learnt from Nadi, Kadavu and Samoa will influence WANI's 4th project in the region, the Pacific Learning and Leadership Programme. This project aims to address the shortfall in awareness and knowledge within Pacific Island countries, advocate the WANI principles and support SOPAC's Regional Pacific IWRM projects.

WANI in Oceania works in partnership with the University of the South Pacific, Samoa - Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Fiji - Land and Water Resources Ministry (LWRM), and SOPAC.



Village elders in Kadavu, Fiji. ©IUCN



For more information on the WANI Toolkits, visit:

<http://www.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/water/resources/toolkits/>

Project photos are available upon request. Bios and contacts of IUCN water experts are available online: [http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/water/wp\\_contacts/index.cfm](http://cms.iucn.org/about/work/programmes/water/wp_contacts/index.cfm)