

# Climate Resilient Islands Programme

## Case Study: From resilience picture to action - Hautahe & Poinoho, Solomon Islands

The Climate Resilient Islands approach rests on interlinked activities where communities identify their resilience vision and picture, and then make plans and implement resilience activity pathways related to that vision. These activities all incorporate traditional and Indigenous knowledge, as well as being inclusive of all. This case study is part of a series identifying threads of interconnection throughout the process in each community, documenting the value of the process and sharing stories with other partners. Each case study shows how the community resilience vision and picture guides learning from the resilience profile to identify the most important resilience actions.

### Community Environment

Hautahe and Poinoho has reefs, beautiful beaches, enough land for gardening, swamps and forests. Many in the community get income from agriculture, fishing and eco-tourism. While developing their community resilience profile the community members discussed that they are currently putting pressure on their natural resources, and that some resources (especially foods from the garden and sea) may become scarce in the future. The swamp areas are used for growing taro, and host trees, birds and tilapia fish – providing food and building materials. The bushland behind the swamp hosts great biodiversity, which is being pressured due to population growth in the community.

The community is already living with the impact of climate change, including increases to sea temperature damaging the reef, erosion of the beach from storms and rising sea levels, and decreased yields in food crops due to extreme weather, increases in pests (such as coconut beetles and wild pigs), and unsustainable harvesting due to a growing population. The community is experiencing a high level of food insecurity related to lack of diversity of foods. Stable food and income are a key resilience indicator, as is having access to multiple income sources that involve agriculture, fishing and tourism.



## Community Resilience Picture and Vision

In 10-15 years, the people living in the Hautahe and Poinoho area want to have their culture preserved; have protected and restored natural ecosystems, including marine areas; have everyone eating healthy local food; and be accessing cooperative income generating activities. They drew a honeybee as their resilience picture because honeybees organise themselves through different roles to work together for the common purpose of keeping the beehive safe and healthy. Hautahe considers that a resilient community is like honeybees when all members show respect to elders, work together for a common purpose and look after their home and natural environment.

When drawing their “Best Future Scenario” the community highlighted that they want their reefs and forest to be restored to full health. The community is aware that the ecosystems around them need strengthening and restoration, and that this is vital for their food security, income and health and wellbeing. Their best future includes restoration and protection of key natural systems (especially the reef and forest), as well as establishing communal homestay accommodation along the beach to encourage responsible tourism as additional income. Women are keen to strengthen the systems that enable healthy local food to be available and accessible for all households. Youth are keen to learn more about traditional knowledge.

## Resilience Plan and Actions

Hautahe and Poinoho community has many ideas and strategies for improving their resilience, focusing first on marine ecosystem restoration. This includes establishing a marine protected area, planting coral and seaweed, and prioritising traditional ways of fishing. These actions lead directly to strengthening the health of the marine ecosystem, which will increase availability of healthy seafood. A healthy beautiful reef with colourful coral will provide more healthy food and seaweed while providing income from limited small-scale tourism to the beach and reef area.

The community has established a committee to work together in all the different roles required for strengthening their marine ecosystem. Preservation of their culture will be done through intergenerational learning on building houses with traditional materials that will be available for eco-tourism, as well as cultural dances and stories that will be preserved to share appropriately with visitors. The community is committed to working together like honeybees to strengthen the health of their marine areas so that this precious ecosystem is more resilient and can continue to support the community in its vision to have healthy local food, income generation activities and protected and restored natural ecosystems.



*Climate Resilient Islands aims to strengthen community resilience and adaptive capacity to the impacts of climate change through nature-based solutions working with rural communities in Vanuatu, Fiji, PNG, Solomon Islands, Tonga, and Tuvalu. The project is a New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade initiative implemented by Live & Learn Environmental Education.*