



# Ridge to Reef Management

## Pacific BioScapes Programme - Fiji

Ra is one of four provinces in the **Vatu-i-Ra Seascape**, which covers over 27,000 km<sup>2</sup> of relatively intact coral reefs, seagrass meadows, mangroves, rivers and forests. Local communities in **Vanua Nakorotubu** depend on coral reef fish for food and income, but degraded catchments and coastal development have resulted in high turbidity in marine waters. This is negatively affecting the marine environment and has also led to an increase in the transmission of waterborne bacterial diseases amongst the local population.

The **Wildlife Conservation Society** will work closely with the **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change, Ra Provincial Council** and **local communities** to develop a climate-smart, ecosystem-based management plan to support biodiversity protection, livelihoods and community well-being. The plan will actively integrate gender and human rights issues into the development process to ensure equitable outcomes across local communities.

### KEY LOCAL ISSUES:



Sediment flows from upstream catchments



Downstream water quality affecting coral reef health



Transmission of waterborne diseases

### RIDGE TO REEF MANAGEMENT:



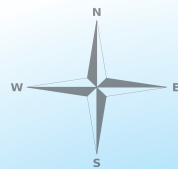
Nature-based solutions for biodiversity, health and climate resilience



Strengthened local-scale management and co-designed solutions



Improved catchment health and water quality



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