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| Description: Fiji Coat of Arms | **MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT** |
| **Press Release** |
| **318 TOORAK ROAD, BALI TOWER, SUVA****P O BOX 1292, SUVA****Phone: (679) 3383155 Fax: (679) 3383546**  |

**August 2020**

**Attention: Chief-of-Staff**

**For immediate Release**

**Nature-Based Solution Vital to Enhance Coastal Resilience**

Building resilience to climate change and the use of nature-based solutions to arrest problems caused by nature was reiterated to address coastal erosions.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Waterways, Environment and Agriculture Hon. Dr. Mahendra Reddy while launching a Nature-Based seawall for coastal protection at Nabukadra Village in RA today.

Dr. Reddy reiterated the impact of climate change was evident and that there was a need to be innovative in our efforts to building resilience to climate change as most communities lived by the sea.

“Fortunately the solutions lie in the very nature itself. Nature-based solutions are in essence *inspired and supported by nature* that is sustainable, cost-effective and valuable to environmental, social, and economic benefits as they help build the resilience of vulnerable communities,”

Minister Reddy said, the Ministry of Waterways and Environment had taken the lead role towards promoting and encouraging the use of nature-based solutions to address climate change issues such as planting of vetiver grass to address riverbank erosion and to protect our waterways, and now planting mangroves to protect coastal areas.

Minister Reddy stated that the Fijian Government would continue its unwavering battle to address Climate Change and strengthen Fiji's resilience through strategic investments in interventions that would increase the adaptive capacity of all Fijians.

Nature-based solutions are interventions that use nature and the natural functions of healthy ecosystems to address climate change issues. These types of solutions help to protect the environment but also provide numerous economic and social benefits.

It helps to build resilience to coastal communities on the impact of climate-induced coastal erosion, storm surges, and coastal flooding.

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