



Matanivusi Beach Eco Resort Sustainable Management Plan

'If you are not part of the solution, you are part of the problem'

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What is Sustainable Surf Tourism?

Global tourism has emerged from a fledgling industry in the 1950's, to one of the world's largest industries in the early 21st century. Increasing numbers of remote destinations are being discovered and incorporated into the global tourism system. Such intensified global tourism activity has had profound effects on the environmental, economic, and socio cultural well-being of such destinations.

Recent decades have also seen unprecedented growth in the sport of surfing and a corresponding growth in commercial surf tourism. Surf tourism often plays a role as a colonizing activity within the global tourism system as surfers tend to seek out perfect, uncrowded waves.

This search often opens up remote destinations, commonly within developing nations, to new systems of development and large scale industrialized tourism. They are frequently ill-prepared to handle such profound change and are faced with deleterious environmental, economic and socio-cultural impacts.

The concept of sustainable tourism has emerged as a way to ensure that tourism is being managed in a responsible and sustainable manner. Sustainable tourism may be best described as:

'Tourism development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.

Essentially, sustainable tourism involves the minimization of negative impacts and the maximization of positive impacts arising from the tourism industry.

Sustainability at Matanivusi

The owners and developers, Brian & Donna McDonald, discovered this amazing piece of coastline around 17 years ago. Around the kava bowl with Vunaniu Village elders, they mentioned it would be a great place for a surf resort. The area is surrounded by pristine coral reefs and exposed to constant swell that combine to produce world-class surf. The natural forest, the white sandy beach line, the creek and the overall untouched beauty of the location indicated that a responsible developmental philosophy was needed.



VIEW FROM THE BOARDWALK AND VIEW FROM THE LAGOON

Brian, an experienced surfer who has travelled the world in search of perfect waves, had experienced numerous instances where poorly planned surf tourism development had resulted in negative impacts on both local environments and communities. He was determined to ensure a much more sustainable approach be used in Matanivusi's development.

Sustainability has been a key priority at Matanivusi from the very start, and has been incorporated into all facets of the resort, from the design to the daily operations. Matanivusi continually strives to refine and increase its level of understanding of sustainability and periodically evaluates its sustainability credentials in order to implement improvements where possible.

STOKE Certification: Sustainable Surf Tourism



In 2014, Matanivusi became the world's first surf resort to earn the certification of 'Sustainable' with STOKE Certification. Since our certification, we have been working diligently to implement initiatives and strategies that keep us at the forefront of sustainability. We had our second evaluation with STOKE in January 2016 and increased our compliance score from 84% to 86%. Our goal and we are working hard towards it, is to become the first and only surf resort to obtain the level of 'Best Practices'. STOKE Certification provides Matanivusi with a framework to improve our sustainable credentials and we are using these so hopefully in the next audit or the following we achieve Best Practices. It doesn't matter how long it takes we will be continuously striving to get there.

STOKE Certified also provides an opportunity to confidently promote Matanivusi's sustainability credentials and our position as a leader in the sustainable surf tourism community.

STOKE Certification is based on the universally agreed best practice standard represented by the Global Sustainable Tourism Criteria (GSTC). The GSTC were developed by an international collaboration of experts, across a broad range of conservation and development agencies, and have been refined over the last several years. This criteria provides a benchmark for tourism operators seeking to adopt sustainable tourism practices. STOKE Certification tailors these globally accepted standards of operation to the unique context of the surf and snow tourism industries.

The surf tourism industry is constrained by the nature of surf tourism itself, which is primarily dictated by the self-limiting nature of surf resources (waves). There is no such thing as a large scale surf resort, cruise ship, or tour. Surfers travel to find and surf uncrowded waves. As a result of the often small scale of businesses within the surf tourism industry, there are constraints on the industry.

In addition, surf tourism operations are commonly based in remote locations or developing countries, a factor which can pose significant constraints in relation to the practicality of addressing various GSTC. STOKE Certification was developed in conjunction with surf tourism industry partners committed to sustainability to formulate criteria, metrics, and reporting procedures which represent sustainability best practice given the constraints of the surf tourism industry.

Existing certification programs suffer from credibility issues as all are 'for profit' programs and a great many of these are examples of 'green-washing'. They require little more than payment of a fee in order to claim 'eco' certification. STOKE Certified is a non-profit organization. There is no ulterior motive. Certification is earned, not paid for. A STOKE Certified Operator is a guarantee that the impact from your surf trip is not only being mitigated, but is actually having a positive effect on the destination and helping solve global sustainability challenges so you can relax and stay stoked!

About the Plan

The Sustainable Management Plan (SMP) was developed to act as an introduction and point of reference for management, employees, guests and the general public in regards to Matanivusi's sustainability philosophy, policies, efforts to date and goals for the future.

Encompassing environmental, socio-cultural and economic sustainability, the SMP's structure reflects the GSTC and is divided into four sections:

1. Sustainable Management
2. Social and Economic Impact Management
3. Cultural Heritage Impact Management
4. Environmental Impact Management

Various examples of Matanivusi's sustainability efforts are provided under each criteria, however it should be noted that the plan is not intended to act as comprehensive documentation of all of the resort's sustainability initiatives.

The SMP informs the public of management decisions and is subject to annual review.

Since its inception in 2013, STOKE has continued to upgrade its benchmark standards. Matanivusi Resort is keeping up-to-date with all of the changes to the STOKE Certification Program and is continually trying to implement these upgrades.

Please note that all documents relating to the operation, certification, legalities of this Resort are available for viewing in the Office files. If you are interested, please see the Front Office Manager or General Manager.

1. Sustainable Management

1.1 Legal Compliance

Matanivusi ensures it is in compliance with local Environmental, Health, Fire Authority, OHS, Labor, Insurance, Tax, Licensing, & Construction laws. All documents are available for viewing in the office.

The resorts insurance covers its property, public liability, workers compensation, marine hull, business travel and commercial motor vehicle. Insurance policies are available for viewing in the office.

1.2 Employee Training in Sustainability

Employees receive ongoing training on their role in contributing to Matanivusi's sustainability efforts and are familiar with environmental policies and objectives in the following areas.

- energy
- water
- waste management
- emergency response
- social/cultural information
- environmental interpretation

Employees are encouraged to actively participate in devising new sustainability initiatives, and to pass on their knowledge to guests and their local community. This is our main priority going forward. We want to see the sustainable practices we've implemented introduced into our local Village of Vunaniu by our staff.



Staff Sustainability Training

1.3 Customer Satisfaction

Along with sustainability, customer satisfaction is at the center of Matanivusi's concern, and as such, the resort provides guests with comprehensive surveys to measure satisfaction across a range of service areas. Results are analyzed to provide a clear picture of service gaps and satisfaction issues. Corrective actions are taken and the results of such actions are monitored.

For example, it has become apparent through guest surveys that interpretation of Matanivusi’s sustainability philosophy was lacking. This has now been addressed through staff training, the development of the Sustainable Management Plan which is publically available both online and as a hard copy in all guest rooms and public areas at the resort and the creation of our Sustainability Tour which showcases Matanivusi’s sustainable practices.

In response to non-surfing guest’s requests for activity diversity, Matanivusi offers a continually expanding range of non-surfing related activities, such as yoga, snorkeling, diving, stand-up paddle boarding, kayaking, volleyball, plantation walks, village visits, waterfall excursions, Kula-Eco Park visits, zip lining, white water rafting and kava ceremonies.



PADDLE BOARDING



YOGA



SNORKELING

1.4 Accuracy of Promotional Materials

Matanivusi aims to ensure that all marketing and promotional materials are truthful, accurately reflect the type and level of services offered, and are publically accessible.

1.5 Sustainable Design/Construction/Maintenance

Matanivusi has been designed by award winning architect, Paul Uhlmann (www.pua.com.au), a surfer from the Gold Coast, Australia. From design through construction and maintenance, sustainability was/is a key priority.



- Local residents have not been displaced involuntarily or without compensation to make way for the development. Housing has been built for nearby residents.



NEWLY BUILT HOUSE FOR RESIDENTS NEXT DOOR

- An environmental impact report was performed and environmental risk factors were identified prior to commencement of construction (a copy of this report is available in the office).
- Matanivusi has been designed to integrate with the local environment rather than transform it. For example, minimal clearing was undertaken to allow for construction, buildings were constructed around significant trees, not on top of them. Raised walkways and construction minimizes disturbance, prevents erosion and retain wildlife habitat. The natural course and flow of the creek has been left untouched.



OUR BAYAN TREE IN THE HEART OF THE RESORT



RAISED BOARDWALK ALONG THE RESORT

- Local labor was/is used in construction and maintenance
- Renewable and recycled materials are used where possible & appropriate in construction and maintenance. For example, the majority of timber used in construction is sustainably grown plantation pine and mahogany.
- Passive solar design principles were incorporated throughout the design/development to avoid the need for artificial cooling and lighting. For example, buildings were sited as to take full advantage of shade provided by established trees. Windows do not face direct afternoon sun but allow ample light to infiltrate. Large expanses of louvre windows allow the breeze to naturally cool interiors.



Passive Solar Design in one of our Bures

- Rainwater collection has been built into the design. All roof tops at the resort are designed to collect rainwater and there are numerous large rainwater tanks located throughout the resort. Except in unusual periods of extended dry weather, Matanivusi is self-sufficient in regards to fresh water, provided that staff and guests adopt a conservative approach to water use. Numerous water saving features have been incorporated into the design of the resort. For example, there are signs informing guests about conserving water in each guest bathroom, toilets have dual flush and use less than 6L per flush. Bar and Kitchen staff also collect water in basins for the washing of utensils and dispose of the waste water onto the herbs growing in pots around the facility.

- All rubbish is sorted into compost, recyclables and waste. Compost is used to fertilize our gardens. Recyclables are brought to a local recycling plant. The money generated from these recyclables is then donated to the Vunaniu Village Kindergarten. All non-returnable bottles are smashed and used as aggregate for concrete mix. Waste is weighed and then dropped off at a local landfill. We are actively setting goals and creating initiatives to reduce our waste.



All proceeds from recycling are donated to the local kindergarten and compost is used for fertilizer

- All wastewater is treated in a Biolytix Wastewater Systems located underground at various points throughout the resort. Filtered wastewater is then used as irrigation and natural fertilizer for landscaped gardens. See the Biolytix website for specifications and environmental safety (<http://www.biolytix.com>)



Flora of Matanivusi

Matanivusi is home to a variety of plants and trees that are very important to Fiji and Fijian culture. There are signs posted along the boardwalk and in other areas around the resort that give a short explanation about the tree/plant, its Fijian name and traditional use in the Fijian culture. For example, the most common tree around Matanivusi is the Tahitian Chestnut or “Ivi”. It produces a hard fruit that can be roasted or boiled and then eaten. The bark, called “yalu”, is traditionally used to treat broken or aching bones. Keep your eyes peeled for these signs during your stay!

1.6 Interpretation

Employees are trained in, and are required to provide quality interpretation of the local environment and Fijian culture and heritage. Matanivusi believes interpretation to be a key part of the visitor’s experience.

For example, the ‘Plantation Walk’ activity, and plant identification signs located throughout the resort introduce guests to many of Fiji’s native plants and their traditional uses. The ‘Sustainability Tour’ highlights the resort’s sustainability initiatives and the behind the scenes work that allows the resort to operate. On the guided walk to Biausevu Waterfall guests learn about Fijian tribal history. Matanivusi’s snorkel and surf guides provide a wealth of information about local marine life. Regular kava ceremonies are held to introduce guests to Fijian traditions and customs. Identification signs of local native bird species, compiled by Rochelle Steven BSc (Hons) PhD Pending, Conservation Ecologist and bird watching enthusiast from Griffith University (Australia), can be found on the information wall in the main building of the resort.

There is a library of reference books about Fiji customs, flora and fauna in the restaurant for guests to learn a little more.

Matanivusi utilizes the services of local environmental experts from various organizations to train employees in an effort to constantly improve the quality of interpretation provided to guests.



PLANTATION WALK WITH KEVU AND TREE DESCRIPTION WITH INFORMATION ON TRADITIONAL USES

1.7 Communication Strategy

Matanivusi aims to ensure that its sustainability philosophy, policies, practices and initiatives are effectively communicated to all employees, guests, and stakeholders.

Information in the guest book informs guests of our energy conservation policies and encourages to turn off any electrical appliance and lights when not in use.

Employees receive regular training on the resort's sustainability philosophy, policies, practices and initiatives and are encouraged to convey this to guests. For example, whenever a local dish is served during dinner, Bruce or one of our waiters explains the ingredients used and how the local/traditional meal is prepared.

Although Matanivusi has a constant supply of rainwater at the resort (approximately 2673mm/year), promoting water conservation is still important. Guests are encouraged to take shorter showers and linen is laundered every 3 days as opposed to daily.

The Sustainable Management Plan is publically available both as hard copy (guest rooms/public areas at resort) and online.

The resort offers all guests a 'Sustainability Tour' to showcase Matanivusi's commitment to sustainability and the initiatives that back our commitment. Talk to any of the staff members if you are interested in taking this tour.

1.9 Skilled Guide/Boatmen/Instructor

Matanivusi places a very high importance on ensuring its surf guides/boatmen/instructors are highly trained and skilled.

- Matanivusi's surf guides are experienced surfers and know the local breaks better than anyone.
- All guides are trained in driving vessels at sea, surf life-saving procedures and emergency first aid.
- Guides are certified in 1st Response First Aid and Aquatic Rescue: Lifeguarding
- Boatmen are licensed by the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji
- Guides quickly ascertain guests' surfing ability and will never place guests in conditions they are not capable of handling.
- Guests are informed of the many idiosyncrasies of each break upon arrival, and are given a briefing on surfing etiquette, and safety signals/procedures.
- Guides are also trained to provide interpretation of the local marine environment and its conservation.



DAKAI AND EMORI IN ACTION OUT AT SEA

Surf Etiquette

Matanivusi is adamant that its guests practice proper surf etiquette. Proper surf etiquette can be what differentiates a good surf session from a poor one. All it takes is one surfer ignoring surf etiquette to cause an unpleasant line-up. We request that you follow the following guidelines when surfing around Matanivusi or anywhere in the world:

- Don't drop in on another surfer. The surfer closer to the break of the wave has the right of way. If a surfer is up and riding do not go. Even if you don't think the surfer will "make it". Always look for other surfers before taking off.
- Take turns and don't "back paddle". Surfing at Matanivusi should not be competitive. After catching a wave, do not paddle immediately back to the peak. Wait for others to catch waves and work your way back to the peak.
- When paddling out, paddle through the channel instead of straight to the peak so you do not get in anyone's way. If you are at risk of getting in a surfer's way, duck dive the white wash instead of paddling for the shoulder so you don't ruin the surfer's wave.
- Stay safe. Do not go out in surf that is beyond your skill level. Always stay in control of your board. Always protect your head/neck

If you see someone from our resort or another ignoring these rules, please inform a surf guide.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Matanivusi aims to act as a caretaker of the local environment, rather than damage it. Some examples of Matanivusi's marine environmental conservation initiatives are listed below:

- Moorings have been installed at all the surf breaks, which prevent continual damage to coral reefs from the use of anchors. Other operators in the area are educated about how to use the moorings properly. Guests are educated about the moorings and reef conservation.
- Guests at Matanivusi are provided easy access to plastic bags in which to collect rubbish from the beach should they wish to do so while on a walk. The resort also does a weekly beach clean-up and guests are encouraged to participate.
- A surf club was started, teaching the local village children who were interested in surfing. Part of the weekly surf school involves sustainability education. The students help in collecting and planting mangrove seeds in our nursery. We then replant the mangroves along the shoreline by the road in order to prevent erosion and restore wildlife habitat



Seva Fixing our Mooring at Pipe

1.10 Safety

Matanivusi places an extremely high importance on the safety of its guests.

- Surf guides/boatmen are all highly experienced, and aim to quickly ascertain a guest's skill level so as to ensure surfers are not placed in conditions they are not capable of handling.
- Surf guides/boatmen are trained and certified in surf lifesaving, emergency first aid and CPR.
- First aid kits are located on board every vessel and the resort has extensive medical supplies.

The largest vessels are equipped with a spinal management board and an EPIRB which is used as a GPS for all offshore excursions

Minor injuries are treated at the resort, and guests with injuries requiring professional medical attention are transported to either Korovisilou Health Centre or Pacific Harbor Medical Centre (10-30 minutes from the resort). Guests with serious medical issues are transported to either Navua or Suva.

Procedures for medical emergency and evacuation, along with procedures in the case of earthquakes and tsunamis, are formalized into a written policy and communicated to all guests and employees. Employees undertake regular training and drills to ensure comprehension of these procedures. Guests are informed of their role in an emergency and of escape routes in the case of an earthquake or tsunami.



OUR STAFF ARE FIRST AID CERTIFIED AND EMERGENCY SIGNS INDICATE EVACUATION ROUTES AT THE RESORT

Communications

Matanivusi has a strict communications policy requiring surf guides and boatmen to routinely 'check in' with the resort upon arrival and departure at surf breaks. The resort is equipped with the following communications equipment for use with the Resort:

- Mobile phones
- Broadband Internet
- EPIRB
- Marine Radio

Equipment

The resort aims to only purchase quality, durable equipment and maintain it to the highest standard at all times. Sustainability is a key factor in the decision making process surrounding any purchase of equipment at Matanivusi.

Matanivusi's fleet of small vessels are all equipped to safety requirements as per Maritime Safety Authority Fiji (MSAF) standards for commercial vessels under 15m. Boats are surveyed every 6 months.

2. Social and Economic Impact Management

2.1 Community Development

Matanivusi supports the sustainable development of the surrounding community and continues to explore opportunities in which to provide further support in areas such as the local economy, education, health, infrastructure, culture and sport.

Where possible, our resort utilizes the services of local entrepreneurs and complementary businesses. For example, we encourage guests to purchase locally made handicrafts from our gift shop and our complementary business, Baravi Handicrafts. We also encourage ‘Sustainable Shopping’ as outlined in our guestbook. We facilitate excursions to Biausevu waterfall, where admissions fees are used for community development projects in the local village, Kula Eco-Park and other sustainability minded tours. See our guest book for a complete list of our complementary businesses

In regards to education, Matanivusi regularly provides supplies (e.g. books, pencils, and paper, building materials) and ongoing support to Vunaniu Village Kindergarten, and has donated 10 computers to the secondary school in Korovisilou with another 5 laptops to be donated at the beginning of the 2016 school year. The resort encourages guests to make a monetary or educational equipment donation when visiting local educational facilities.



GUESTS DONATING TO THE KINDERGARTEN



GUESTS VISITING THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Matanivusi is continually exploring practical ways in which to help improve the health of the local community. The resort donated FJ\$2000 for water pipes in Vunaniu Village, which are used to transport water from a mountain reservoir to the village in order to provide clean potable water.

Matanivusi has also donated a one week stay for 2 people at Matanivusi to Surf Credits which uses proceeds to support the Loloma Foundation in its efforts to provide clean water to Fijian communities.

Matanivusi periodically provides medical supplies/equipment to Korovisilou Health Clinic. Donations so far have included a ventilator machine, medications, linen, bandages and money.

Matanivusi has made inroads into improving basic sanitation and waste management within the local community. The resort has provided recycling information to Korovisilou School and Vunaniu Village Kindergarten. The resort has provided a station at Vunaniu Village Kindergarten where rubbish can be separated into recyclables. This is then taken to a recycling facility in Suva. A re-imbusement per bottle/can then goes to the kindergarten for education materials.

Matanivusi facilitates community participation in sporting activities. The resort has assisted in fundraising for local athletics at Korovisilou High School, and paid for Vunaniu netball & football teams to enter the Provincial competitions. Proceeds from coconut sales support local sport teams. Talks are continuing with the village chief about building a rugby/netball field for the village youth for which Matanivusi will provide funding.

The resort has formed the Vunaniu Surf Club to teach the local kids surfing and sustainability. Guests have been known to donate surfboards to the Vunaniu Surf Club and Brian regularly repairs damaged surfboards for the club to use.



The Vunaniu Village Surf Club

Vunaniu Village Surf Club

The Vunaniu Surf Club was formed to teach the youth of our local village, Vunaniu, surfing and sustainability. The kids come every Saturday for a surf lesson, lunch and usually a lesson in sustainability. This can include anything from recycling to marine conservation. We believe that instilling a message of sustainability to the youth will help spread the philosophy to the Vunaniu and beyond. Teaching them surfing also gives the kids access to the lifestyle we love so much!

Matanivusi makes donations to various community groups seeking to improve basic infrastructure. For example, the resort has donated funds to:

- Yanuca Women’s Group – footpaths throughout the village
- Vunaniu Kindergarten – construction of playground
- Water supply for Vunaniu Village

Matanivusi aims to facilitate the maintenance of culture within the local community in many ways, such as encouraging guests to participate in kava ceremonies in the local village and attend various cultural and social events as they arise. Guests are encouraged to make donations at such events and these funds go towards various community development projects.

2.2 Local Employment

Matanivusi only employs Fijians, and priority is given to prospective employees from local communities. Matanivusi strives to support employee’s professional growth, and provides ample opportunities for staff to train for other positions and work toward promotions. For example, Tony Karan began working as a barman and is now the resort manager. Chef Bruce started as a dishwasher and the resort paid for his chef training. Majority of our staff started in resort maintenance and have since been trained as boatmen and surf guides. Emori, Seva, Manasa, Wais, and Inoke are all certified boatmen.



STAFF CONSTRUCTING THE YOGA CENTRE



EMPLOYEES SAI, MA, IMA, MARK, MITI, KEVU, WAIS, INOKE AND MANASA

2.3 Local purchasing

Where quality and price are commensurate, Matanivusi purchases only locally produced goods and services. The resort is constantly exploring opportunities in which to substitute imported products for those that are made in Fiji. For example, the restaurant menu is tailored to incorporate the use of as much Fijian grown/made produce as possible.

2.4 Support of local entrepreneurs

Matanivusi supports local sustainable livelihoods by supporting local entrepreneurs and providing a market for sustainably produced local goods and services.

For example, Matanivusi encourages guests to purchase handicrafts from local sellers, and sells Fiji made handicrafts/products in the gift shop; a Fijian masseuse is engaged to provide massages and

beauty treatments to guests. On Suva trips, our guide takes guests to the local handicraft markets which sell only Fijian made products.



MASI OF DIFFERENT PRINTS AND LOTIONS AND OILS MADE LOCALLY SOLD IN GIFTSHOP

The resort facilitates visits to various Fijian owned and operated tourism activities and complementary businesses, such as Rivers Fiji (white water rafting), Kula Eco Park (Fiji’s only wildlife park), Zip Fiji (zip-line tours) and Navua River Eco-Adventure (bamboo rafting and village visits). All recommended activities incorporate sustainability in their business model. A list of these complimentary businesses along with a list of recommended restaurants and a ‘Sustainable Shopping’ guideline can be found in the Activities Guide.



Kula Eco Park is the only Fijian Captive Breeding facility for endangered species

2.5 Exploitation

Matanivusi does not condone commercial exploitation at any level and will not knowingly engage in business with those that do. This policy is communicated to the resort’s direct suppliers, and research is often

Fiji Made

When possible, we recommend you buy products that are “Fiji Made”. The Fiji Made campaign was started by the Fijian government in 2009 to encourage consumers and organizations to buy goods and services produced in Fiji. When you purchase a Fijian Made product or service, you’re helping create jobs and promote growth within Fiji. There are a total of 174 companies and 877 products that are part of this campaign. When purchasing souvenirs, food, clothing or any other product or service, look for one of the Fiji Made emblems to ensure you are helping the economy of Fiji.



undertaken to ensure secondary suppliers within Matanivusi's supply chain do not engage in commercial exploitation. A copy of the resort's letter to its suppliers is available in the office upon request.

2.6 Equitable Hiring

The resort does not discriminate along gender, ethnicity, sexual preference, or disability lines in its hiring of employees.

2.7 Employee Protection

Employees at Matanivusi are protected according to national standards and full-time employees are paid above minimum wage and superannuation. Employees also enjoy many other benefits such as ample opportunities to train for other positions/promotions, and basic medical care. A number of employees receive onsite accommodation/board, and transport to (and often from) work, etc.

2.8 Basic Services

The resort is self-sufficient in terms of water due to our rainwater collection system. We do not affect the local water supply. In fact, we have helped the local water supply. Matanivusi has enhanced the supply of potable water to Vunaniu Village by providing FJ\$2000 for a water pipe project.

Matanivusi used to be powered by a diesel generator ran 24/7. In February 2015, the resort converted to solar power. The resort has 120 solar panels positioned in strategic areas. Now the generator only runs approximately three hours per day.

Wastewater is managed onsite using Biolytix Wastewater systems. As such, no wastewater enters the surrounding waterways.

The resort has built a new concrete house, supplying it with piped water system from the creek for the landowners next door to the resort. Matanivusi has also continuously supplied the two local households living close to the property with free electricity.

Employees are provided with free transportation to and from the village.

3. Cultural Heritage Impact Management

3.1 Code of Conduct

A code of conduct for activities in local communities has been developed, with the consent of, and in collaboration with, the community to avoid causing offence in everyday life. This code of conduct also applies when visiting culturally or historically sensitive sites. It is designed to minimize visitor impact and maximize enjoyment. This code of conduct is made available to guests in written form and is verbally highlighted by staff.

3.2 Historical Artifacts

Historical and archaeological artifacts are not sold, traded, or displayed, except as permitted by law.

3.3 Protection of Sites

Matanivusi seeks to contribute where possible to the protection of local historical, archaeological, cultural, and spiritually important properties and sites, and does not impede access to them by local residents.

For example, Matanivusi facilitates visits to Biausevu Waterfall, which is a significant historical/cultural site for the local villagers of Biausevu. The village uses admission fees and donations for conservation work around the waterfall and for projects in the village. Guests often participate in planting a tree at the Youth Tree Nursery located along the walk to the waterfall. Once advanced, the trees are sold and proceeds go toward youth group initiatives.



GUESTS VISITING BIAUSEVU WATERFALL AND PLANTING A TREE AT THE BIAUSEVU NURSERY

Kava in Fiji

Kava is the unofficial national drink of Fiji. It is produced by grinding the root of the *yaqona* plant and then mixing the powder with water in a large wooden bowl called a *tanoa*. After a couple *bilos* (the Fijian name for the half coconut shell used as a cup), you will experience a mild relaxing sensation as well as a slightly numb mouth. Kava is drunk regularly by Fijians. No gathering is complete without Kava. It is drunk both formally during Kava Ceremonies and informally as socializing activity among friends. Matanivusi hosts a Kava Ceremony about once a week.

3.4 Incorporation of Culture

Matanivusi aims to incorporate elements of local art, architecture, or cultural heritage in its operations, design, decoration, food, and gift shop wherever possible, while respecting the intellectual property rights of local communities.

Some of the ways in which Matanivusi facilitates guests' exposure to Fijian cultural heritage include encouraging participation in kava ceremonies at both the resort and the local village of Vunaniu, basket weaving demonstrations, church trips and participation in 'Lovo' nights, where they are introduced to traditional Fijian methods of cooking. Employees are encouraged to introduce guests to their way of life and history.



BASKET WEAVING, KAVA NIGHT AND LOVO NIGHT DEMONSTRATIONS WITH GUESTS

Matanivusi aims to incorporate as much local produce and traditional recipes into its menu as possible. Local dalo, cassava and other customary ingredients are all commonly used ingredients in a variety of dishes.

Waste baskets in all bathrooms are made locally with local resources. Flower arrangements made with native species are used for decoration in the main building and guest rooms.

The resort gift shop sells a variety of locally produced products, including handicrafts, cosmetics, and clothing.

The carport shows guests traditional Fijian architecture. Traditional Fijian structures are simple in design and possess a woven bamboo/thatched roof.

4. Environmental Impact Management

4.1 Purchasing Policy & Consumable Goods

Matanivusi favors locally produced environmentally friendly products for building materials, capital goods, food, and consumables. The resort avoids over-packaged, single use and disposable goods wherever possible.

The majority of the timber used in construction at the resort is plantation grown pine or mahogany grown in Fiji. This means that the trees were planted on a cycle and no deforestation has taken place.

The resort prioritizes the use of local products in relation to overseas products. It encourages local farmers to supply fresh produce to the resort. The remaining produce is purchased at the Suva market.

When available, Matanivusi purchases fresh fish, from local villagers. However fish is routinely supplied by Fiji Fish in Suva. Fiji Fish supply fish harvested from the Fiji Albacore Tuna Longline Fishery, which is a certified by the Marine Stewardship Council (MSC) as a sustainable fishery.

Matanivusi has also increased purchases on locally produced alcohol and spirits, to help minimize the demand for imported goods and to help promote “Fijian Made” products. Just Daiquiris and Fiji Rum supply our wide range of Fijian produced liqueurs and rums.



Just Daiquiris

Fiji Rum

Instead of using imported, individually packaged soap for use in guest rooms, the resort uses locally produced, unpackaged natural soaps bought in bulk from Luxury Cosmetics.

All toilet paper used in the resort is made in Fiji by Charan Jeeth Singh Group (Nambawaan Ltd) which owns a paper recycling factory trading as South Pacific Waste Recyclers, located in Suva. They collect and recycle waste paper from offices throughout Fiji in order to manufacture its toilet tissue.

Any rubbish from the resort, taken to the local landfill, is weighed. We are actively creating strategies to reduce our amount of landfill waste.

With consumable goods, every effort will be made to find more products which are available in bulk supply and to replace canned products with fresh produce when possible; non-recyclable containers, such as alcoholic beverages will be replaced by recyclable packaged products e.g. cider bottles have been replaced by recyclable aluminum canned cider.



LOCALLY PRODUCED SOAP



PRODUCE FROM THE LOCAL MARKET

4.2 Energy Consumption

Matanivusi's energy costs, usage, and savings are recorded to enable us to plan ways to continually reduce our consumption.

While approximately 25% of Fiji's electricity is from renewable sources, it was cost prohibitive for Matanivusi to connect to the main power supply as the closest access point is kilometers away. In the past the resort was powered by a 70kva diesel generator. The output of this generator was sufficient to power the resort under peak demand and supply neighboring Fijian households.

In an attempt to move towards a more sustainable form of energy production, Matanivusi worked with Rainbow Power Company (RPC). Rainbow Power Company is a licensed electrical contractor in New South Wales and Queensland whose staff are accredited by the Clean Energy Council of Australia for design and installations of grid connected and stand-alone renewable energy systems. RPC was contracted, when local companies failed to respond, to design, supply and install a Solar Mini-Grid System to assist the resort to meet its objectives of transitioning its electricity infrastructure to clean, green, renewable energy.

A hybrid solar/diesel system was designed, utilizing the existing roof structures. There are 120 solar panels spread out on the main restaurant, yoga center and Manager's residence. The 70 kva generator has since been replaced by a 35kva generator which is used approximately 3 hrs/day, during the peak evening times or if the batteries are low due to continual inclement weather.

Matanivusi aims to use only energy efficient appliances and lighting throughout the resort and will gradually phase out any non-efficient appliances. The resort is phasing out all incandescent light globes and CFL globes and has since installed LED's. Newly bought appliances are energy efficient e.g. Upright fridges, ice cream freezer, office air conditioning unit and Maytag washing machine and dryer. Regular maintenance is undertaken on all appliances, especially fridges and freezers in order to ensure their continued efficiency.

Instantaneous gas hot water units have been installed, which use far less energy than 'storage' type hot water systems.

Our spa is heated through a single phase unit and has a slow start mechanism, this reduces energy and adds to the longevity of the spa.

The resort has almost completed transitioning all its outboard motors to four stroke engines, which are far more energy efficient (and produce less CO2 emissions) than two stroke engines.

4.3 Water Consumption

All fresh water at Matanivusi falls as rain from the sky overhead, onto the rooftops, and into rainwater catchment tanks. Every building, including staff quarters has rainwater catchment tanks. Except in unusual periods of extended dry weather, Matanivusi is self-sufficient in regards to fresh water, provided that staff and guests adopt a conservative approach to water use. Employees are regularly trained in the importance of water conservation, and guests are made aware of the need to conserve water.

The resort has a UV treatment and water filtration system to further enhance the quality of the water provided.



Our water filtration and UV treatment system

Matanivusi employs various water saving measures, such as only dry sweeping decks, paths and walkways, and only washing linen/towels when necessary. All toilets at the resort are dual flush and use less than 6L per flush.



RAINWATER TANKS OUTSIDE EACH RESORT ROOM

4.4 Reducing pollution

From its inception, Matanivusi has strived to have as little negative impact on the local environment as possible, and attempts to reduce or eliminate pollution from wastewater, waste, energy generation, chemical products, and noise, light, runoff, erosion, and air and soil contaminants wherever possible.

All wastewater is treated by a Biolytix Wastewater Systems located at various points throughout the resort. Filtered wastewater is then used as irrigation and natural fertilizer for landscaped gardens. See the Biolytix website for specifications and environmental safety (<http://www.biolytix.com>).

The resort has a ‘Reduce, Re-use, Recycle’ policy in regards to waste management. We make every attempt to reduce consumption (especially of packaged or single use items), re-use items as much as possible, and recycle any recyclable waste/materials. Preparing meals that contain a high percentage of fresh produce in lieu of canned or packaged foods, using multi-use plastic containers for food storage instead of plastic wrap/foil/disposable containers, recycling aluminum cans, glass, egg cartons, paper and cardboard, and giving food scraps to our chickens and to our employees for pig feed are all examples of how Matanivusi’s ‘Reduce, Re-use, Recycle’ waste management policy is followed. Employees are well versed in this policy and, combined with management are constantly on the lookout for innovative ways in which to improve resort waste management, such as using broken surfboards as wall art.

The resort undertakes a weekly beach clean-up in which guests are encouraged to participate. All collected rubbish is sorted and recycled where possible.



GUESTS ON OUR WEEKLY BEACH CLEAN-UP.



BROKEN SURFBOARDS USED AS DECORATIONS

The use of harmful chemical substances, such as certain pesticides, herbicides, swimming pool disinfectants, paints, and cleaning products is minimized or substituted with natural or innocuous products wherever possible and all chemical use is properly managed. For example, Matanivusi uses a vinegar solution and bi-carb soda as cleaning products, burns citronella based candles to control mosquitoes in the bar/restaurant area, and minimizes the use of chlorine in the swimming pool and spa. Matanivusi hopes to convert the swimming pool and spa to a salt water system in future.

Outdoor lighting at Matanivusi has been kept discrete in an effort to reduce light pollution, and guests are encouraged to switch off all lights and fans when not in use.

Runoff and erosion is reduced or eliminated due to the fact there are very few impervious areas within the resort (such as paving) which allows water to naturally penetrate the soil. Development of the resort involved very little clearing, and an extensive and ongoing planting regime is in place which, along with raised boardwalks also helps to prevent runoff and erosion.

As a direct result of Matanivusi replacing its 70kva diesel generator with a 35kva generator that is enclosed for noise reduction, the hybrid power generation has reduced its CO2 emissions by approximately 80%. This is due to the 35kva generator only being run approximately 3 hours/day instead of 24/7.

The resort's two motor vehicles run on diesel, and are regularly serviced by the in-house mechanic to ensure efficient operation. Two stroke outboards on the resort's vessels are being phased out and replaced with four-stroke outboards, which emit far fewer emissions.

4.5 Conserving Biodiversity, Ecosystems, and Landscapes

Matanivusi places a very high importance on conserving biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes within the local area, particularly within the confines of the resort.

The resort itself was designed and constructed in a way that has had as little impact on the local environment as possible. Minimal clearing was undertaken to make way for the development. Raised boardwalks and bures mean that life on the forest floor experiences very little disturbance. Biolytix wastewater systems prevent wastewater entering local waterways. With the exception of fruit trees, vegetables, herbs and biodiversity and local plant species, while providing habitat for local fauna.

The land that Matanivusi sits on represents a special piece of coastal littoral forest that provides habitat for native bird species of Fiji. Some species seen in and around Matanivusi (and Vunaniu) are even endemic to Viti Levu, meaning they are found nowhere else in the world. Part of the philosophy behind Matanivusi's policy is to build around trees instead of removing them, was to protect the habitat of the indigenous wildlife.



Birds of Matanivusi

Matanivusi can be a bird watchers paradise! There are numerous species of birds that call Matanivusi and the surrounding areas home. Pictures and description of these birds can be found in the restraint hallway. Keep your eyes peeled around the resort and you might see a Masked Shining Parrot, a Vanikoro Broadbill or a White Collared Kingfisher. Look at the car park roof in the morning you could see two rescued Eastern Reef Heron named Herriot and Henry. These two birds fell out of the nest as babies and were nursed back to health at the resort.

Working with a local government body, we have compiled a list of 83 species of fauna found in the Matanivusi and Vunaniu area. This is included in our E.I.A. document which is available in the office. This document lists the families, species and their traditional uses.

Matanivusi also contributes to biodiversity, ecosystem and landscape conservation beyond the resort by encouraging guests to visit the Biausevu Waterfall and Kula Eco-Park. Admission fees for Biausevu are used for local community development and conservation and admissions fees to Kula Eco-Park are used for wildlife conservation and endangered species protection.

The resort has developed a mangrove rehabilitation program in the local area and a coral planting program is in the works. As a result of high tides and cyclonic conditions, the access road to the resort has been eroded. Through consultation with Fiji Roads, a large rock installation program has been implemented. We are now planting mangroves along this road to help prevent erosion and restore wildlife habitats.