

Transformation pathways for Pacific coastal food systems

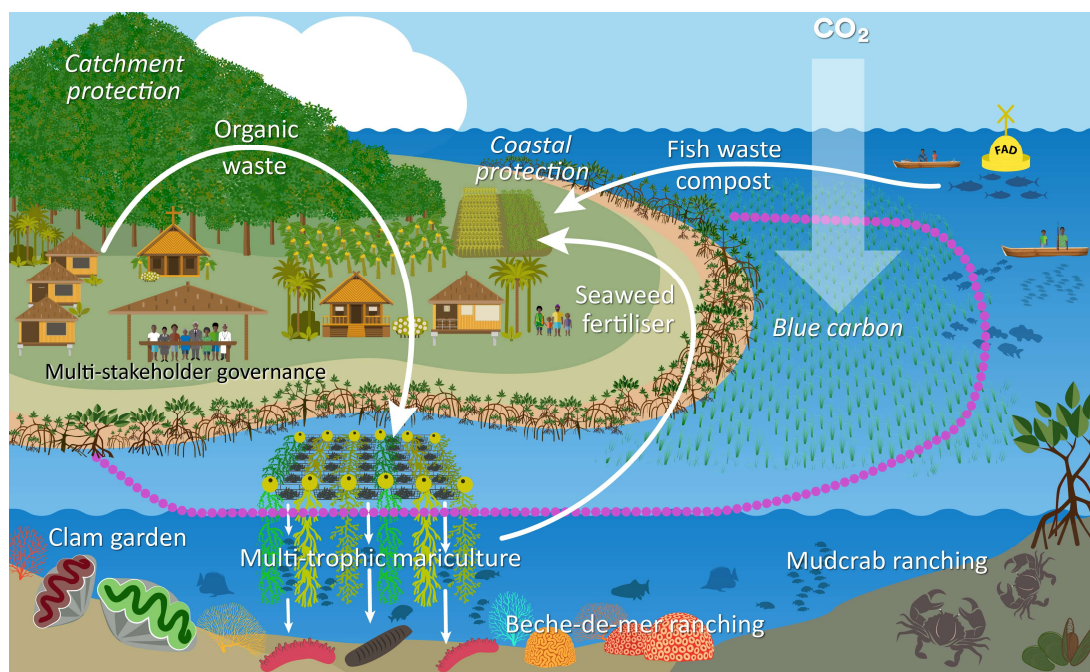
The challenge

As global temperatures approach 1.5°C above pre-industrial levels by 2050, and 2.0°C by 2100, the impact of climate change on the Pacific region will accelerate. Local food systems – agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and aquaculture – will be drastically affected, exacerbated by population growth. There is uncertainty about the timing and extent of these impacts, but these changes are likely to render many current production systems less viable, and in some cases impossible. Consequently, planning is necessary that considers alternatives that go beyond incremental adaptation towards transformational change. Many studies have been conducted on Pacific food crops and fisheries, their vulnerability to climate change, and resilience-building strategies. Climate projections and climate services are rapidly improving, providing better information. However, there is a lack of decision-making tools and

processes that integrate this information and enable communities and planners to anticipate rapid climate change, and to transform food systems accordingly.

Project partners and aim

To meet this challenge, in 2023-2026 Live and Learn, WWF-Solomon Islands, the Australian Centre for International Agriculture Research (ACIAR), the Cawthron Institute, the University of Technology Sydney, the Pacific Community (SPC) and CSIRO are collaborating with Pacific partners to develop innovative decision-making that can map transformational options at a local level. Potentially transformational alternatives will also be trialled which integrate agriculture, fisheries and aquaculture within 'circular bio-economies' to meet local communities' values and aspirations (see below). The project will work in two pilot sites: Abaiang Island in Kiribati, and Sagheraghi in Western Province, Solomon Islands.



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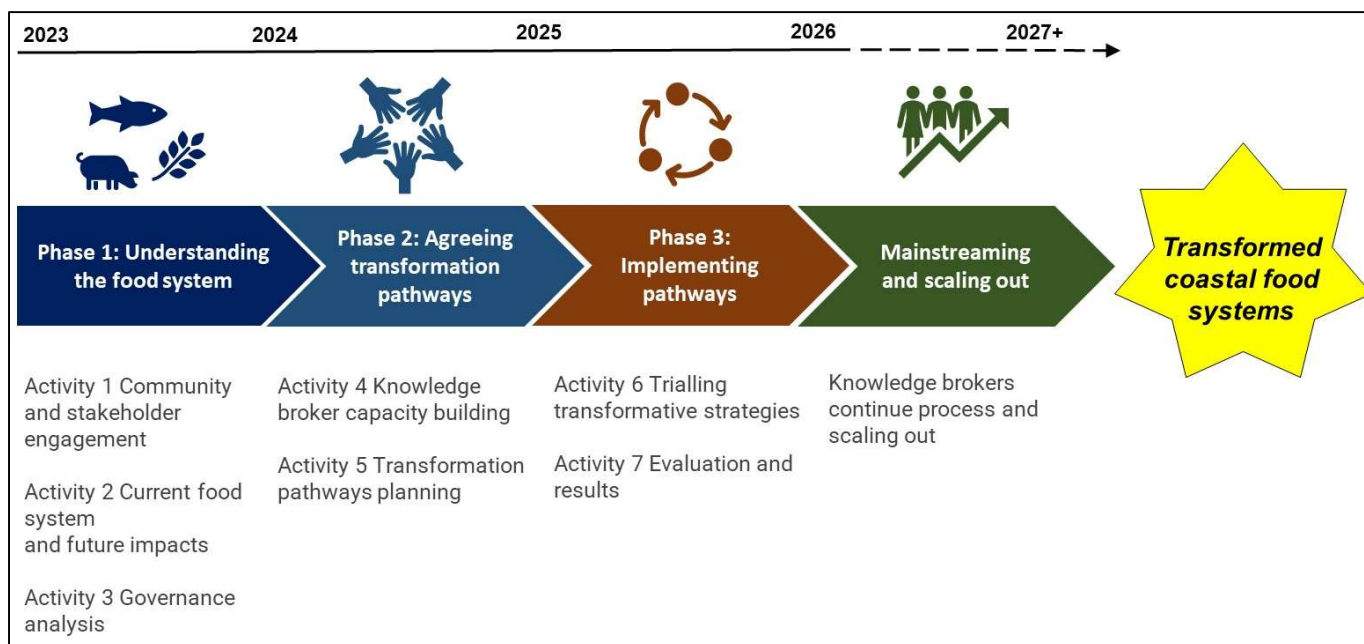
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Approach

The project will follow three phases: understanding the food system, agreeing transformation pathways, and implementing the pathways. By building the capacity of knowledge brokers, the process will be maintained in the pilot sites, and scaled out through the brokers' activities. Ongoing monitoring, evaluation and learning will be central to track change, and to learn lessons for future processes (see below).



As part of Phase 1, community members and decision-makers have already begun mapping their food systems, and understanding the root causes of problems that they have identified.

