



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

2021/2022

VICTOR FATIAKI | CHAIRMAN | 30th JULY 2022

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Noa'ia 'e mauri ko Gagaj! I am pleased to present the Fiji Rotuman Association (FRA)'s Annual Report for FY2021/2022, which outlines FRA's progress and achievements for the year.

At the 2021 Annual General Meeting I spoke about the devastating impact the COVID-19 was having on lives and economies across the globe. It has been a challenging year due to pandemic impact on Fiji, as most of the FRA planned events were unable to happen until third quarter of the financial year 2021/2022 due to the restrictions enforced by the Fijian Government.

The Rotuma Day Celebration was cancelled due to uncertainty in pandemic times that the FRA will need to consider. As for the FRA Backyard Farmers Root Crop Competition was held in May 2022.

The review of Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024 and Constitution was endorsed on 27 November 2021 at the Annual General Meeting.

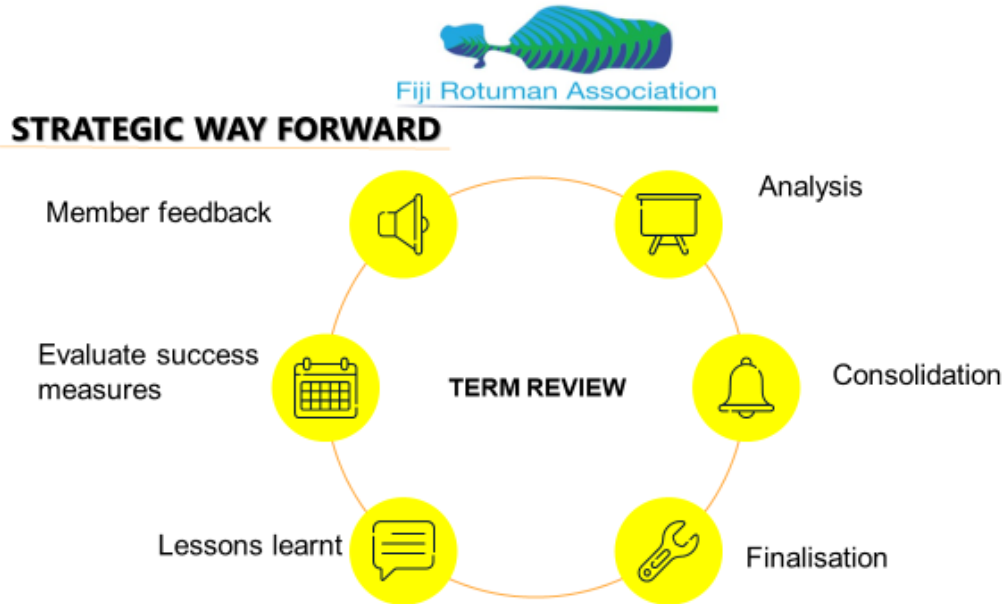
FRA Council and Secretariat met with the Rotuman Community in the Western Division, Fiji on 16 July 2022 in Nadi and it was worth the effort.

The Secretariat and Committee, acknowledged that a broad and diverse pool of talent is essential to deliver our strategies and make a positive impact on the Rotuman society and the Association as a whole. To us this means a workforce comprised of skilled professionals from diverse backgrounds.

Nevertheless, we Praise God for His FAITHFULNESS, GRACE AND PROTECTION among His people.

2.0 STRATEGIC WAY FORWARD

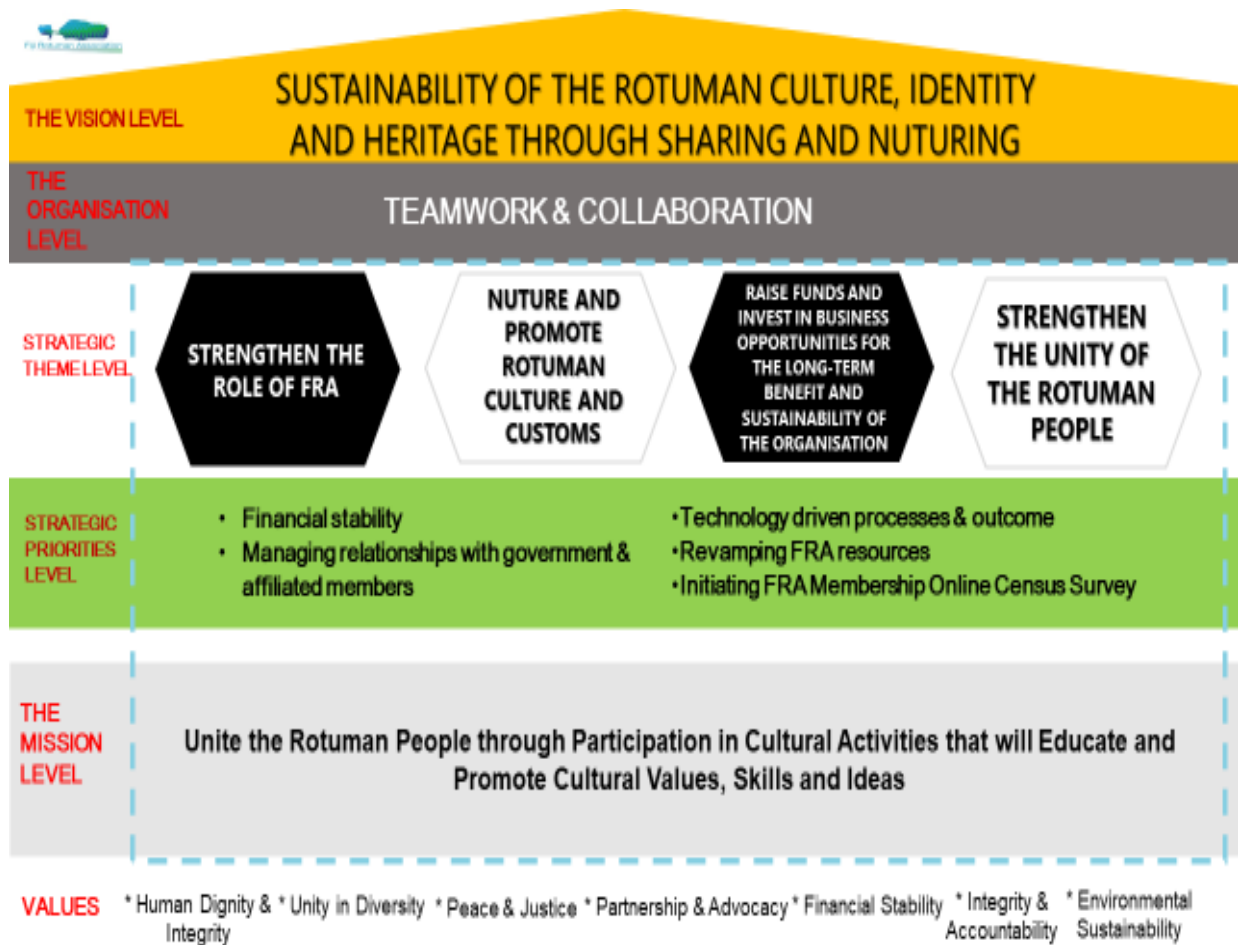
The term review Cycle below shows FRA's strategic way forward in reviewing its strategic plan and mapping the route to take for future improvements.



3.0 ORGANISATIONAL HIERARCHY

3.1 ORGANISATIONAL LEVELS

The FRA structure can be summarised at various organisational levels as outlined below:



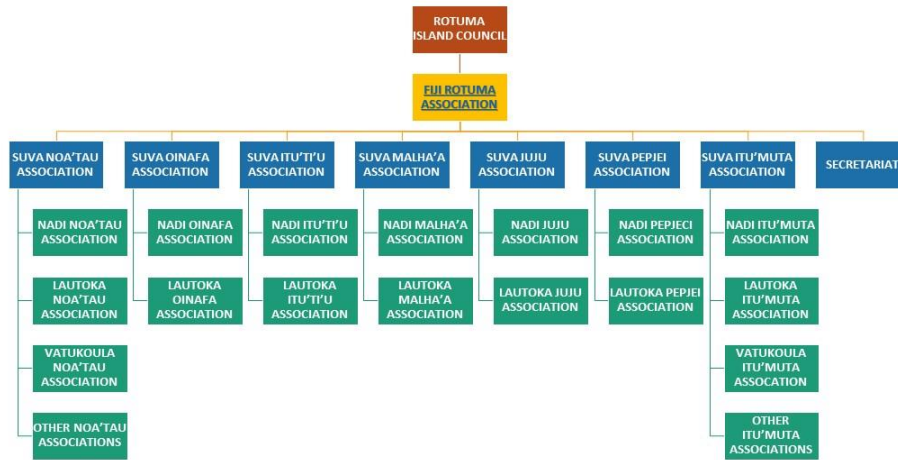
3.2 FRA ORGANISATION STRUCTURE

As outlined below is FRA’s current structure that was established in 2003. Ever since then this has been that practice that some of the affiliated associate-members within the FRA use this current structure.



Fiji Rotuman Association

OUR ORGANISATION CURRENT STRUCTURE 2003



3.2 FRA OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE

The diagram below depicts the current Operational Structure:



Fiji Rotuman Association

OUR OPERATIONAL STRUCTURE



3.2.1 The FRA Executive Council Members for this Financial Year:-

1. Suva Noa'tau Association – Mua Manueli & Matapule Finiasi
2. Suva Oinafa Association –Fekau Rupeni Fatiaki & Fiu Rigamoto
3. Suva Itu'ti'u Association – Bettyrosa Jione & Surkafa Katafono
4. Suva Juju Association – Paserio Furivai & Jacinta Fesaitu
5. Suva Pepjei Association – Francis Paul & Fisi Nasario
6. Suva Itu'muta Association – Paserio Samisoni & Muariro Samisoni

3.2.2 The Secretariat consists of the following;

1. Chairman – Victor Fatiaki
2. Deputy Chairperson/Head of Governance – Agatha Ferei Furivai
3. Secretary - Joan Wiliame
4. Deputy Secretary – Hanisemao Moresio
5. Treasurer – Roger Emberson
6. Deputy Treasurer – Susie David

3.2.3 The Committee members' assignments and responsibilities:

1. ACP EU CCIP Grant – Agatha F., Joseph Samuela. & Surkafa Katafono
2. Rotuman Community Hub – Head of Projects, Francis Paul
3. Rotuman Language Commission– Headed by Alfred Wiliame of iTTFB
4. Organic Rotuma – Alfred W & Fereti Atumurirava
5. UNDP Funding Pilot Seedling Project – Vilson Timote, Fereti A. & Elaijah Mario
6. Constitution – Surkafa K. & Victor F.
7. Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024 – Paserio Furivai
8. Organisation Structure - Victor F. /Melida R.
9. Prime Minister's Visit – Victor F. /Melida R.
10. FRA Financial Report - Assets/Liabilities & Registration – Roger E. & Susie D.
11. FRA Census Survey/Youth Coordinator – Joseph Samuela
12. Communication & Media Committee Member – Makrava Wilson
13. Communication & Media Committee Member – Melida R.

The FRA Secretariat/Committee was influential in organising the events for the association such as obtaining a new FRA Registration under Charitable Organisation on 2 May 2022 and executing other funding projects requirements from the Pacific ACP EU CCIP.



Figure 1 - FRA Secretariat/Committee at 2021 AGM Meeting on 27 November 2021, Churchward Hall. L-R Front Row: Joan W (Secretary), Agatha Furivai (Deputy Chairperson) & Victor F (Chairman); L-R Back Row: Francis J; Surkafa K; Hanisemao M; Susie D; Roger E; Paserio F; Melida R & Peter P.

4.0 FRA CERTIFICATE OF INCORPORATION AND REGISTERED APPLICATION

Early this year 2022, the Registration of Titles Office disseminated a notice to FRA however this was not received from FRA office as the notice was disseminated to the former Trustees of the Association however, the Secretariat and the Council was not been advised of this notice. As a result, FRA was deregistered in January 2022.

Following the FRA Council Meeting in February 2022, it was collective decision for a new registration and election of new Trustees. At this meeting, it was agreed for Vama Law (Lawyers) to facilitate the registration of FRA, which the registration was lodged with the Registrar of Titles on 11 March 2022.



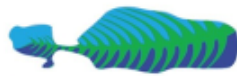
The new appointed Trustees of the Association are as follows:

1. Paserio Samisoni - Suva Itu'muta Association
2. Paserio Furivai – Suva Juju Association
3. Peter Fatiaki – Suva Noa'tau Association
4. Fanoa (Susie) David – Suva Oinafa Association
5. Roger Emberson – Suva Itu'ti'u Association



Figure 2 - A snippet of FRA's Registration with Registrar of Titles

5.0 STATEMENT OF ASSETS FOR FRA as at 30 June 2022



Fiji Rotuman Association

STATEMENT OF ASSETS FOR FIJI ROTUMAN ASSOCIATION

As of 30/06/2022

LIST OF ASSETS	FIGURES AS OF YEAR 2021 2022
ANZ Term Deposit- 11748249	\$ 81,878.04
ANZ Investment Account- 13396134	\$ 2,768.60
Apei, Mats and Tabua	\$ 1,050.00
TOTAL	\$ 85,696.64
ANZ Operating Account - 610674	\$ 10,567.90

6.0 OUR CONTRIBUTIONS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

6.1 **ROTUMAN LANGUAGE COMMISSION** – FRA members were invited to be part of the Technical Team Meetings on Proposed Rotuman Language Commission spear headed by iTTFB representative, Alfred Wiliame.



Figure 3 -- Rotuman Language Commission Consultation at TTBF Office

6.2 ROTUMA ISLAND COUNCIL MEETING - 2022

The FRA Chairman's participation at Rotuma Island Council Meeting in June 2022 is a reflection of our good relationship.



Figure 4 - Rotuma Island Council Meeting in June 2022 at 'Ahau Government Station, Rotuma.

6.3 FRA CONCERNS

With FRA's close working relationship with the Council of Rotuma, FRA wrote to the Office of the Prime Minister in regards to the Goundar Shipping stoppage of Franchise shipping service to Rotuma.



27 June 2022

Delivery: BY Hand and Email

The Permanent Secretary
Office of the Prime Minister
Level 4, New Wing
Government Buildings
SUVA

Attention: Rotuma Desk Officer

Dear Sir

RE: GOUNDAR SHIPPING FRANCHISE

I write as Chairman of the Fiji Rotuman Association (FRA) to seek your assistance and intervention towards the decision by the Goundar Shipping Company on 6 June 2022 to cease all trips to Rotuma and Lau due to the rise in Fuel prices.

This is of great concern to our people as we fully rely on Government to provide shipping services to our people on the island. Of the ten (10) Government franchise shipping routes in Fiji, Rotuma is one of them serviced by Goundar Shipping. The questions I'd like to pose is why are we being victimised when the increase in fuel price is of a global issue? What is Government's stance on the decision made by Goundar Shipping to cease its services to Rotuma? We are not privy to the Franchise Agreement but it appears that Goundar Shipping has the discretion to decide on whether it should or should not run its ships when cost becomes a concern. The hike in fuel price which is the main reason for ceasing the shipping services to Rotuma is beyond our control. It is the obligation of government and Goundar shipping to address any concerns amicably without having to resort to such drastic actions where the livelihood of people is compromised.

I have just returned from Rotuma last week and have noted the shortage of essential items on the island. Shops have run out of fuel, sugar, milk, flour and toiletries to name a few. Of course there is abundance of root crops, veges and sea food, however people rely on essential items for daily use especially the children.

Apart from the shortage of items on the island, a lot of people are waiting to travel to Fiji and vice versa as not everyone can afford to travel by plane.

The Fiji Rotuman Association works closely with the Rotuma Island Council and I am sure that they may have raised their concerns through the District Officer Rotumas' office, however, as the Rotuman body here in Fiji looking after the interests of our Rotumans living outside the island, I am obliged to address this issue with your office.

We humbly seek your intervention in providing a way forward to this issue as we firmly believe that Goundar Shipping should not be allowed to dictate to Government whether or not it will provide services to only certain islands just because it suits them, seeing that it has a binding contract with Government.

It is our humble plea that this matter is resolved at the earliest so that our people are not disadvantaged for too long.

Yours sincerely

Victor Fatlali
Chairman Fiji Rotuman Association
Mobile: 9924004
Email: vfatlali@gmail.com

Cc:

- Minister for Commerce, Trade, Tourism & Transport
- Chairman Rotuma Island Council
- District Officer, Rotuma

P.O. BOX 18419, Suva; Tel: (679) 332 0213; Mob: (679) 992 4004; Email: vfatlali@gmail.com

Figure 5 – As snippets of FRA Letter to the Office of the Prime Minister

6.4 UNDP FLORA INCLUSIVE BIODIVERSITY ROTUMA (FIBR) PROJECT

This proposal is already submitted to UNDP to fund an Open Pollinated (OP) vegetable seeds in Itu'muta Rotuma. This is the first type of project in Fiji and the (OP) seeds should be able to tolerate most pests and disease and high adaptability to all year round planting.

This funding support will ensure access to quality organic seeds in Rotuma and to improve food security on the island.

Enclosed is a copy of the supporting FRA letter for this project.

12 May 2022

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

The Fiji Rotuma Association (FRA) is pleased to support this UNDP Flora Inclusive Biodiversity at Itumuta, Rotuma (FIBR) project for the overall development of livelihood of Rotumans through improved landscape management, sustainable food production partnership, develop pandemic-proof community based & climate adaption methods and innovative community driven flagship initiatives.

We could foresee that FRA could play a coordinating role here in Fiji on the market as a valuable component in the value chain of organic products that comes from Rotuma and a key partner to this initiative as well as others that will follow.

We fully endorsed and whatever contribution we can to support the implementation of the project.

Yours sincerely



Victor Fatiaki
Chairman

6.5 FRA MEMBERS PARTICIPATION

The FRA at Nadi and Lautoka Rotuman Language Commission Consultation organised by iTaukei Trust Fund Board (TTFB).



6.6 FRA CENSUS SURVEY FORM – 2022

FRA Secretariat is conducting a Census Membership Survey to find out the total number, members status etc. to assist in each application to secure funding or sponsorship. Refer to the link for your reference:- <https://forms.gle/RAswyNgk4FxbHdNN9> - (FRA member Registration Online Form).

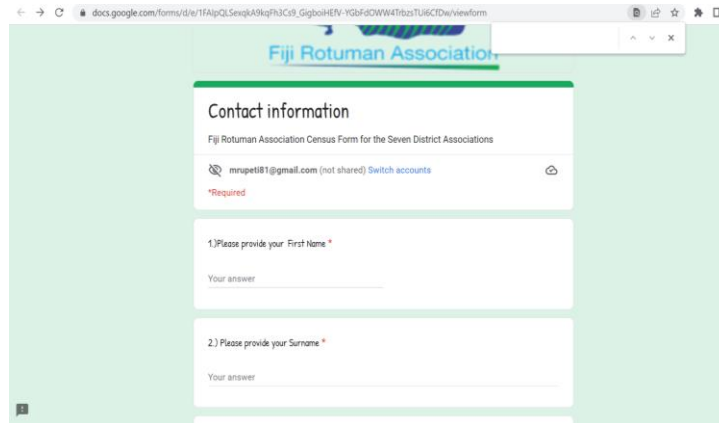


Figure 6 - A snippet of the FRA Online Census Form for Seven-District Associations

6.7 THE LAUNCH ACCREDITATION OF ORGANIC ROTUMA

FRA has contributed to *Paega*¹ for the launch whereby each-district member contributed Rotuman mats. FRA purchased a new *Apei*² for this auspicious event as it was initially to be launched in Rotuma. Unfortunately due to the nationwide lockdown it was sanctioned to be held in Suva. This launch was organised by iTTFB and officiated by His Excellency, Major-General (Ret'd) Jioji Konusi Konrote, CF, OF (Mil), MC, SBSt.J, MSD, OMRI, NOC, President of the Republic of Fiji at Holiday Inn, Suva.

¹ Is the term for the layer of Rotuman Mats we sat on.

² The finest Rotuman Mat



Figure 7 – The Launch Accreditation of Organic Rotuma Plaque & Rotuman Publication, “*Rak la Faeag Rotuam*” on 21 October 2021 at Holiday Inn.

7.0 ACTIVITIES

The calendar of events was issued at the beginning of the new financial year last year. Attached herewith a snippet of the FRA meeting calendar of events for FY2021/2022:



MEETING SCHEDULE DATES - FINANCIAL YEAR – 2021/22

#	Meetings	Date	Venue	Host District
1	First Meeting	23 rd October 2021	Hart	Itu'muta
2	Second Meeting (AGM)	27 th November 2021	Churchward Hall	Itu'muta
3	Third Meeting	29 th January 2022	Hart	Noa'tau
4	Fourth Meeting	26 th February 2022	TBA	Noa'tau
5	Fifth Meeting	23 rd April 2022	TBA	Noa'tau
6	Sixth Meeting	25 th June 2022	TBA	Noa'tau
7	Seventh Meeting (AGM)	30 th July 2022	Churchward Hall	Noa'tau

Note: Proposed Visitation & workshops for 2022

1. Secretariat & Committee proposed visit to the Nadi, Lautoka & Vatukoula – Scheduled for January/ February 2022
2. Proposed workshop – Farmers and Women March 2022
3. Proposed workshop – FRA important documentation, familiarization & review April 2022

7.1 FRA COUNCIL MEETINGS – TEAM WORK & COLLABORATION

Team work and collaboration are important aspects as it both involve a group of people working together to achieve a shared goal. It is important that the Council works together with the Secretariat in order to execute its planned events, goals and objectives of the association.

The Council meetings are usually held on quarterly basis and must hold not less than six (6) meetings within a Financial Year.



Figure 8 - FRA Council Meeting held in February 2022 at Churchward Hall

7.2 FRA MEETING WITH THE ROTUMAN COMMUNITY IN THE WESTERN DIVISION, FIJI

The visit was headed by FRA Chairman and Council representatives including the Secretariat/Committee members. The purpose of the meeting is to *“Unite the Rotuman People through Participation in Cultural Activities that will Educate and Promote Cultural Skills and Ideas.”*

The representatives of Vatukoula, Lautoka and Nadi communities has agreed to the principle of uniting all the Rotumans in Fiji under one umbrella however, they will need time for further consultation amongst their members.

There were sub-meetings held with the respective District-members at the Western Division, following the FRA Briefing presentation.



Figure 9 - FRA Council Meeting with the Rotuman Community in the Western Division, Fiji on 16 July 2022 at Nadi Airport Boat Club.



Figure 10 - FRA Council Sub-meetings with Members of Rotuman District-Communities in the Western Division, Fiji

7.3 ANNUAL AGM FY 2020/2021

At this AGM, the revised Constitution and Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024 were endorsed on 27 November 2021 at Churchward Hall.



Figure 11 - 2021 AGM Meeting held at Churchward Hall in November 2021

7.4 FRA BACKYARD FARMERS ROOT CROP COMPETITION IN MAY 2022

An incredible competition held to coincide with the Rotuma Day Celebration. With an aim to continue passing down knowledge and planting skills to the younger generation.

The competition was held on 14 May 2022 at St. Marcellin Primary School.

The yams and dalos were distributed to those that purchased the F\$50 tickets.



8.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

On behalf of the Working Committee/Secretariat, I would like to sincerely thank each and every one of you for the effort and work output as well as the support for this Financial year 2021/2022.

A special thank you to the current host district Noa'tau and its *Ho'aga*³ members for their efforts and sacrifices in supporting the Council and Secretariat throughout the past year. *Faiaksea 'e garue hanisi*. Our best wishes to the next district host, Oinafa and looking forward to working closely with your enthusiastic and dynamic group.

'Omus Le' garuet

Victor Fatiaki
Chairman

³ a kinship community under the direction of a titled sub-chief, the *fa'es ho'aga*, who acted as steward (pure) of the land.