



CAQALAI, FIJI
MONTHLY ACHIEVEMENT REPORT
JUNE 2016





OBJECTIVES

Ensuring Food Security for Younger Generations of the Moturiki District; the Happy Chicken Project

SUMMARY

Rural communities within Fiji rely heavily on their 'iqoliqoli' or marine resource for their protein supplement. This heavy reliance has led to a depletion of most of their fisheries stock. As an alternative, GVI in association with Corals for Conservation, have piloted the Happy Chicken Project on Caqalai Island with the intent of rearing these chickens and distributing them to the Moturiki villages so that they may be able to have their very own chicken pens hence, an alternative protein source, while giving ample time for marine stock to replenish itself.





REPORT

The “Happy Chickens for Food Security and Environment” is an initiative that encourages small-scale backyard production of poultry at subsistence level, so that the flock is able to obtain most of its food by foraging for worms, bugs, grass, and compost. The goal is to provide each family within the Moturiki district with two to three dozen chickens; just enough to provide eggs for daily use and an occasional rooster or hen for the table for special family events.

The Happy Chicken Project involves rearing free-range chicken in a pen, allowing them to roam freely for a period of the day. The Happy Chicken breed is a product of a cross-breed between a Fijian rooster species and a New Zealand hen species. Chickens have proven to be a good alternative protein source to fish therefore is highly relevant in areas such as Moturiki where Marine Protected Areas are being implemented. It is deemed feasible for the villages since they are a low-cost thus sustainable; the only cost being the chicken feed which costs around twenty Fijian dollars (\$20Fjd) for 20kilos that usually lasts for a whole month. In the event that one poultry farmer runs out of chicken feed or is unable to attain more for some reason or other, this high-breed chicken is also able feed on coconut mixed with saijan leaves and water. In addition, the chicken housing or pen is made out of recycled wood pieces/ coconut fronds and/or mesh wiring. These pens were designed by a GVI volunteer with an architectural background therefore the pens are architecturally sound.

Currently, there are two chicken pens housing 40 chickens. When the chickens have matured sexually, it will then be possible to identify their individual gender from whence they will then be divided up into a 1:8 male to female ratio in their “chicken palace”.



ABOUT GVI

We're a family-run organisation with an amazing culture and an awesome team of people across the world who are passionate experts in their chosen field and will make your experience a truly unforgettable one (in a good way).

Our award-winning projects receive over 2000 participants every year, and we're proud to say that the vast majority of them describe their experience with us as 'life changing'. Our approval rate from over 20 000 participants since 1997 is over 95%.

A key component of the success of our community development and conservation projects is the participants who join our programs. Opportunities include high impact volunteering from one week and up, internships for those looking for career development opportunities, Challenges that allow a one week adventure all for a good cause and a range of programs for school groups and younger volunteers.

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