

## **Talanoa Story: Where do we want to go? Kadavu Talanoa Group**

As a representative from the Environmental NGO community, my story is as much an economic and health story as it is an environmental one. Imagine a low-carbon future, one where addressing climate change helps both people and nature: a world with productive soil, clean air and water, coastal resilience and healthy and diverse ecosystems. This world is possible. Nature has significant untapped mitigation potential, making it an essential part of the solution for climate stability and for thriving communities and economies. Integrating natural climate solutions—mitigation from forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands—into NDCs can support these goals and help the global economy flourish. We foresee three key components to achieve this vision: 1) maximizing the power of nature for mitigation and adaptation to enhance ambition in subsequent NDCs, 2) recognizing the health and economic benefits from this approach for improved water quality, flood buffering, and soil health, and 3) increasing collaboration at all levels. Partnerships between civil society, national and subnational governments, and the private sector are essential to achieve the enhanced ambition needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement.

To get to this low carbon future, we certainly have to reduce our fossil fuel emissions, but nature must also play a role. In fact, nature can offer 37% of the mitigation solution needed to meet the goals of the Paris Agreement. One example of this is a water fund — where downstream water users invest in upstream land conservation and restoration which improves water quality and helps regulate water supply. Investors—including utilities, large business and government agencies— view the fund as an effective way to minimize treatment costs and reduce risk of future water shortages.

We're all here today because we know we need to act, and we can't do this alone. Cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships will be a critical

component of where we want to go. Existing examples of partnerships like the [Forest Carbon Partnership Facility](#), the [Nature4Climate](#) partnership, and the [International Partnership for Blue Carbon](#) are already bringing together civil society and governments to learn from each other's experiences while building capacity to enhance ambition.

Lastly, this is not a new concept. The Paris Agreement states to take action on all sinks and sources, such as the importance of conservation and enhancement of terrestrial and marine ecosystems. Now it's up to all of us to take the next step by integrating a nature-based approach to addressing climate change and encouraging that these stories inform updated NDCs in 2020 as well as political commitments for enhanced ambition at COP24. Thank you for inviting me to participate in this dialogue.