

# **Stories from the field – a community voice from Bua village in Fiji**

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# My stories

1. Tarusila's journey as an advocate for women's leadership in fisheries management in communities
2. Challenging governance structures that ignore women's voices
3. Waves of change - breaking barriers





## **My journey as an advocate for women's leadership in fisheries management in communities**

- Not an easy journey and a lot sacrifice
- Becoming a representative on natural resources for my village
- Facing ignorance and being turned down by community leaders and decision makers
- Sharing success stories from other villages and their benefits from community-based fisheries management (CBFM)
- I had to be creative to convince and make my voice heard
- Never any regrets in this 14-years journey

# My journey - from the mangroves to India

Women fisher - specialized in mud crab fishery



Representing Fijian women fishers in New York and now India





## Challenging governance structures that ignore women's voices

- Women to sit in the back and be silent
- Women are not allowed to make decisions
- Management of resources ignore women's fishing activities



## Waves of change - breaking barriers

- Fisherwoman association 2022 to join forces - now men join us!
- Women now presenting and speaking out





## Waves of change - breaking barriers

Community management plans supporting sustainable fishing practices for women dominated fisheries (e.g., mud crab and sea cucumber)



**Vinaka vakalevu!**

Tarusila Veibi from Fiji