

## **Concept Narrative**

The core concept of our design centers around the creation of a lake, formed by damming the local stream at the site's lowest point—where water would naturally collect. This body of water becomes both a visual focal point and a functional anchor for the surrounding community spaces. Around this newly established lake, we have organized modular, multifunctional communal structures designed to serve as both gathering places and private retreats.

The use of natural, locally available materials such as timber, reed and bamboo reflects our commitment to sustainability and cultural appropriateness. These materials are not only environmentally friendly, but they also resonate with local architectural traditions. Modularity is a key feature of the design, allowing for future expansions or adaptations in response to evolving community needs.

The community space is designed with flexibility and inclusivity in mind. It features areas that support large-scale communal gatherings, such as performances or educational workshops, as well as more secluded zones for reflection and individual use. Each modular unit is topped with solar panels, contributing to the generation of clean energy and making the project self-sustaining.

Community functions within the site include a multi-purpose event hall that can transform into an outdoor classroom, a community library, spaces for recreation and wellness, a shared kitchen, a performance stage, and even a designated area for swimming and leisure. A communal fire pit further supports social interaction and traditional gatherings.

The structures are equipped with large sliding doors, enabling open-air use during calm weather and offering protection during storms or high winds. This adaptive feature enhances resilience and supports year-round usability.

Our design reimagines the relationship between community and land, combining energy generation, water retention, and shared spaces in a way that celebrates both culture and climate resilience. The installation will not only serve as a practical infrastructure solution, but also as a destination that invites both residents and visitors to engage with sustainability in a meaningful and experiential way.

## Environmental impact assessment

Our project is designed to harmonize with the natural landscape and minimize any ecological disruption. The proposed lake, formed by carefully damming an existing stream at the site's natural low point, takes advantage of existing topography where water already collects. This helps mitigate flood risk and creates a new microhabitat for local biodiversity, including aquatic life and bird species.

## **Operation and maintainance**

Our design is guided by the principle that long-term success relies not only on technical resilience, but also on community engagement and ownership. To this end, we have prioritized simple, low-maintenance systems and materials that are familiar or easily learnable by local residents.

Operation of the solar energy and water systems will be supported by a dedicated local team trained during the pilot implementation phase. We will organize a series of capacity-building workshops in partnership with technical experts and educators, equipping community members with the skills needed to monitor and maintain the photovoltaic system, battery storage units, and water harvesting infrastructure.

The modular design enables easy access to key components for maintenance, and standardized parts will be used wherever possible to simplify repairs and replacements. A maintenance handbook, cocreated with the Marou community in both English and Fijian, will serve as a practical and culturally appropriate guide for everyday use and troubleshooting.



