



## Na Waqa Drua Navigation Project

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REGIONAL HUB:	Pacific
CULTURAL SECTOR(S):	Cultural heritage, crafts
BENEFICIARY (IES):	iTaukei Trust Fund Board
COUNTRIES COVERED BY THE ACTION:	Fiji Islands
PROJECT DURATION:	01/2024-07/2024 (7 months)
BUDGET:	EUR 180 000 – EU FUNDING: EUR 180 000 (100 %)
WEBSITE:	N/A

The **'Na Waqa Drua project'** aims to reconstruct a sacred 32-meter canoe, the first in 150 years, in order to preserve and revitalize the maritime heritage of Oceania.

In this perspective, new and significant scientific information about the 'drua' will be generated.

The completion of the design of the 'drua' will enable the commencement of its construction as well as learning and training programs for children, women, and the entire community. This will ensure the proper transmission of traditional 'drua' construction techniques and contemporary skills to the new generations, thereby preserving cultural heritage and essential skills.

A maritime trade route for practitioners of traditional arts and crafts dispersed in remote maritime regions, using the 'drua' as a means of transporting goods, will be established and served.

Furthermore, the 'drua' will operate in the realm of cultural tourism to provide cross-cutting opportunities, including safaris, artisanal products, onboard entertainment, village and garden tours, and retail sales of artisanal items.

Finally, the establishment of two entities, the 'Waqa Drua Builders Guild' and the 'Canoe Business Network', will support the ongoing practice of construction and the project's impact far beyond.



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