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CONFERENCE PAPER ABSTRACT – APPLICATION FORM

NAME OF PRESENTER:	Ron Vave
TITLE OF PAPER:	Community conservation of natural resources: The lesser known Culturally Protected Water Bodies of Fiji
THEME:	<i>Theme 2: Cultural Landscape Practice and Management</i>
PAPER ABSTRACT:	
<p><i>An immense body of literature exists globally on protected areas that have been established by, and with, local communities. Such protected areas often have food security and biodiversity conservation as its primary goal. In Fiji, only a few of these literatures write a sentence or two about protected areas that are established by indigenous Fijian communities, for cultural reasons such as funerals. Very little detail is given on the types of Culturally Protected Water Bodies (CPWB) that are done in Fiji, where they are established, who they are done for and how long is protection in place. Plus, what are the changes that CPWBs are going through and its impacts on social and ecological systems. This paper will share preliminary findings to answer the questions above, based on five CPWBs known to Fiji that encompass the general life cycle and milestones of an indigenous Fijian; (1) Pregnancy, (2) Meconium, (3) Circumcision, (4) Chiefly installation and (5) Funerary. The three key findings on CPWBs in Fiji are; (a) that they are not as widely known, even among indigenous Fijians, particularly those in urban areas and staff of conservation NGOs, (b) they are place-based and therefore affected by migration plus other governance and social issues and (c) successful harvest of small sized, short term CPWB have reaffirmed the correlation in people's minds that natural resources needs to be protected in order to have more which may have supported the widespread adoption of larger, longer term protected areas in Fiji.</i></p>	
BRIEF BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE PRESENTER:	
<p><i>An indigenous Fijian male, currently in the final stages of pursuing a doctorate in Marine Biology at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, researching how changing indigenous Fijian funeral culture in Fiji shapes and influences social and ecological resilience. Ron has worked 14 years in Locally Managed Marine Area (LMMA) realm, in both Fiji and the Indo-Pacific before starting postgraduate studies.</i></p>	