

PARTICIPATORY SPATIAL PLANNING FOR SMALL ISLAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF YAVUSA NAVAKAVU, FIJI

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**MASTER PROGRAM
COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
FACULTY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE SCIENCES
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Bogor, July 2025

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SUMMARY

EMELI FESAITU BERNARD. Participatory Spatial Planning for Small Island Resource Management: A Case Study of Yavusa Navakavu, Fiji. Supervised by: FERY KURNIAWAN, LUKY ADRIANTO, and JOELI VARO

This thesis presents a Participatory Spatial Planning for Small Island Resource Management: A Case Study of Yavusa Navakavu, Fiji. Therefore, participatory spatial planning (PSP) methodology is specifically designed for small island communities, using Yavusa Navakavu in Fiji as a case study. Navakavu, recognized for its biodiversity and deeply rooted cultural traditions, is facing increasing pressures from urbanization, climate change, overfishing, and pollution, especially due to its proximity to Suva and the Lami industrial zone. The research addresses these challenges through a collaborative spatial planning approach that combines traditional ecological knowledge with spatial analysis methods to promote sustainable resource governance.

The research has three objectives, i.e. to (1) identify and assess the current resources of the land and sea use patterns in Navakavu coastal area based on traditional knowledge, (2) analyse social-ecological system (SES) for mapping a system pattern of Navakavu coastal area, and (3) develop a proposed participatory spatial planning model and an effective implementation plan. This research was conducted using mixed methods, such as semi-structured interviews, participatory mapping with local leaders and residents, and Global Positioning System (GPS)-based surveys to delineate current and proposed land and marine usage zones. The data were subsequently digitized and analyzed using ArcGIS Pro and Fragstats software. This mixed methods approach was deeply participatory, starting from traditional ceremonies such as ‘Sevusevu’ to technical sessions involving local people, thereby ensuring both cultural sensitivity and scientific rigor.

The results showed that Navakavu’s land was primarily used for agriculture and forestry, and mangroves, while marine zones were dominated by fishing activities, tabu (no-take) zones, and coral planting. However, spatial analysis revealed high cohesion in both land and sea areas, but these patterns were found to be random due to the lack of significant clustering. This suggests that while resource use is widespread and diverse, it is not spatially concentrated, which could challenge strategic zoning. The SES mapping highlighted strong community governance structures rooted in traditional systems but also pointed to challenges in formal recognition and the inclusion of marginalized groups like women and youth in decision-making.

This study concludes that the PSP area is rooted in both traditional knowledge and modern geospatial analysis, which can support sustainable development goals for coastal communities in small islands. The proposed PSP model offers a replicable framework for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) facing similar pressures.

However, for this to work, this research recommends stronger legal recognition of customary governance systems, inclusive engagement processes, improved data monitoring, and long-term capacity building. Future research should explore how to scale this model across other coastal regions while ensuring that local cultural dynamics are respected and integrated into formal planning structures.

Keywords: Participatory spatial planning, resource management, traditional knowledge.

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RINGKASAN

EMELI FESAITU BERNARD. Perencanaan Spasial Partisipatif untuk Pengelolaan Pulau Kecil: Studi Kasus di Yavusa Navakavu, Fiji. Dibimbing oleh FERY KURNIAWAN, LUKY ADRIANTO, dan JOELI VARO.

Tesis ini menyajikan metodologi perencanaan spasial partisipatif (PSP) yang dirancang khusus untuk komunitas pulau kecil, dengan menggunakan Yavusa Navakavu di Fiji sebagai studi kasus. Navakavu, yang dikenal karena keanekaragaman hayati dan tradisi budayanya yang mengakar kuat, menghadapi tekanan yang semakin meningkat akibat urbanisasi, perubahan iklim, penangkapan ikan berlebihan, dan polusi, terutama karena kedekatannya dengan Suva dan kawasan industri Lami. Penelitian ini menjawab tantangan-tantangan ini melalui pendekatan perencanaan tata ruang kolaboratif yang menggabungkan pengetahuan ekologi tradisional dengan metode analisis spasial untuk mendorong tata kelola sumber daya yang berkelanjutan.

Penelitian ini memiliki tiga tujuan, yaitu untuk (1) mengidentifikasi dan menilai sumber daya terkini dari pola tata guna lahan dan laut di wilayah pesisir Navakavu berdasarkan pengetahuan tradisional, (2) menganalisis sistem sosial-ekologi (SES) untuk memetakan pola sistem wilayah pesisir Navakavu, dan (3) mengembangkan model perencanaan tata ruang partisipatif dan rencana implementasi yang efektif. Penelitian ini dilakukan dengan menggunakan metode campuran, seperti wawancara semi-terstruktur, pemetaan partisipatif dengan tokoh masyarakat dan penduduk setempat, serta survei berbasis *Global Positioning System* (GPS) untuk menggambarkan zona pemanfaatan lahan dan laut saat ini dan yang diusulkan. Data tersebut kemudian didigitalisasi dan dianalisis menggunakan perangkat lunak ArcGIS Pro dan Fragstats. Pendekatan metode campuran ini sangat partisipatif, mulai dari upacara adat, seperti 'Sevusevu', hingga sesi teknis yang melibatkan penduduk setempat, sehingga memastikan kepekaan budaya dan ketelitian ilmiah.

Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa secara umum lahan Navakavu adalah pertanian, kehutanan, dan mangrove, sementara zona laut didominasi oleh area penangkapan ikan, zona tabu (larangan tangkap), dan penanaman karang. Analisis spasial menunjukkan kohesi yang tinggi di wilayah darat dan laut, tetapi pola pemanfaatan lahan dan laut tersebut diketahui acak karena kurangnya pengelompokan yang signifikan. Hal ini menunjukkan bahwa meskipun pemanfaatan sumber daya tersebar luas dan beragam, pemanfaatannya tidak terkonsentrasi secara spasial, yang dapat menantang zonasi strategis. Pemetaan SES menyoroti struktur tata kelola masyarakat yang kuat yang berakar pada sistem tradisional, tetapi juga menunjukkan tantangan dalam pengakuan formal dan pelibatan kelompok-kelompok terpinggirkan, seperti perempuan dan pemuda dalam pengambilan keputusan.

Studi ini menyimpulkan bahwa wilayah PSP yang berakar pada pengetahuan tradisional dan analisis geospasial modern dapat mendukung tujuan pembangunan berkelanjutan bagi masyarakat pesisir di pulau-pulau kecil. Model PSP yang diusulkan menawarkan kerangka kerja yang dapat direplikasi untuk *Small Island Developing States* (SIDS) yang menghadapi tekanan serupa. Namun, agar hal ini

berhasil, penelitian ini merekomendasikan pengakuan hukum yang lebih kuat terhadap sistem tata kelola adat, proses keterlibatan yang inklusif, pemantauan data yang lebih baik, dan pengembangan kapasitas jangka panjang. Penelitian di masa mendatang harus mengeksplorasi cara untuk memperluas model ini di wilayah pesisir lainnya sambil memastikan bahwa dinamika budaya lokal dihormati dan diintegrasikan ke dalam struktur perencanaan formal.

Kata kunci: Perencanaan tata ruang partisipatif, pengelolaan sumber daya, pengetahuan tradisional.

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PARTICIPATORY SPATIAL PLANNING FOR SMALL ISLAND RESOURCES MANAGEMENT: A CASE STUDY OF YAVUSA NAVAKAVU, FIJI

EMELI FESAITU BERNARD

Thesis
as one of the requirements to obtain
a Master of Science Degree
in the Coastal and Marine Resources Management Study Program

**MASTER PROGRAM
COASTAL AND MARINE RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
FACULTY OF FISHERIES AND MARINE SCIENCES
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PREFACE

This research field work was conducted from September to October 2024 under the title: *Participatory Spatial Planning for Small Island Resource Management: A Case Study of Yavusa Navakavu, Fiji*. The aim behind this research stems from a deep interest in exploring how traditional knowledge and participatory spatial planning can contribute to sustainable resource governance in small island communities. I hope that this work will serve not only as an academic contribution but also as a practical guide for local stakeholders and other coastal communities facing similar challenges.

I express my deepest gratitude to the Lord Jesus Christ for His continued blessings and guidance throughout this research journey. My sincere gratitude to the Government of Indonesia, IPB University as the host institution, and the UNDP Archipelagic and Island States (AIS) Forum for awarding me the AIS Innovator Scholarship and for their generous support in making this research possible.

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Bogor, July 2025

Emeli Fesaitu Bernard

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ACRONOMY

PSP	Participatory Spatial Planning
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Area
SES	Social-Ecological System
GIS	Geographical Information System
TEK	Traditional Ecological Knowledge
LPI	Largest Patch Index
SHDI	Shannon's Diversity Index
SHEDI	Shannon's Evenness Index
SIDI	Simpson's Diversity Index
SIEI	Simpson's Evenness Index
YN	Yavusa Navakavu