

International Partnership in Preservation

Project Objectives

The National Trust of Fiji (NTF), formed in 1970 to preserve the natural, cultural and national heritage of the islands, is seeking:

1. To promote the permanent preservation for the benefit of the nation of land (including reefs), buildings, furniture and
2. To protect and augment the amenities of land or buildings and their surroundings, and to preserve their natural aspect and features;
3. To protect plant and animal life; and
4. To provide for the

access to and enjoyment by the public of land, the buildings and their contents.

Similar to other Trusts, The NTF seeks to educate the public on the importance of natural and cultural heritage and increase the sustainability of the land and buildings.



Project Scope

To date the focus of the NTF's work has been the protection of their natural heritage. Currently they protect 14 heritage sites including 5 community conservation projects facilitated by NTF.

A particular problem they have experienced has been attracting international experts to the islands to share their particular knowledge. To help resolve this, the NTF decided to engage with INTO to gain access to its global network of experts, to seek volunteers able to

provide the assistance required. An initial problem was matching the required skills with experts who were available for at least 4 months.

At first the process was a little unstructured. The first volunteers were those interested primarily in visiting Fiji. The initial roles they undertook were to help with a youth development programme at the Sigatoka Sand Dunes and also a series of educational activities at the Waisali Rainforest Reserve.

Building on this initial experience the next inputs were better aligned with the ambition to improve the country's built heritage on many of its 110 occupied islands.

The first project selected was to help improve the management of Fiji's first World Heritage site, the historical port of Levuka

Special points of interest:

- Attracting assistance from international experts.
- Support from the INTO network
- Helping to develop the management of Fiji's first World Heritage site in the historical port of Levuka
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Bank of New South Wales before and after, in original colours

INTO Involvement

The NTF realised that it could tap into the wide range of expertise that INTO could help make available, through the mechanism of long term working holidays.

The first step was to develop a plan of the skills needed and identifying which experts were available

The programme benefited from a small grant from

INTO towards support for the volunteer.

A challenge was to obtain visas for the volunteer and time needed to be allowed for this process.

Bart Van Aller came for 12 months to serve as Built Heritage Advisor. An initial task was to conduct community based research into the country's historical buildings and create partnerships for

work on the heritage buildings identified in Fiji.

Working in conjunction with NTF and the local authority on the Levuka management project, the first building to be renovated was the New South Wales Bank.

A key aspect of the project was researching the colours originally used to decorate the building.

Key outcomes

“This first project has helped to improve the management of Fiji’s first World Heritage, the historical port of Levuka”

NTF and INTO were able to develop a working arrangement, finding long term volunteers that were able to come and assist in meeting the goals set by the NTF.

The first success has been the restoration of the Bank of New South Wales

in Levuka, the aims being to protect its value and to contribute to maintaining the national and cultural heritage of the islands.

In carrying out this first project INTO was able to share best practices between partners from other nations.

Additional volunteers are planned to help assist in Fiji for a minimum period of 4 months on other projects where their experience will be beneficial.

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