

Presentation 2

Strengthening Heritage Management Capacity in the Pacific Islands

Ms. Frances C. Koya Vaka'uta

Director, Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture and Pacific Studies,
The University of the South Pacific

*Strengthening Heritage Management
Capacity in the Pacific Islands*

Reflections on Heritage Programme Development
at The University of the South Pacific

Levuka Port Town, Fiji

Phoenix Islands, Kiribati

Ngerukewid Islands
National Wildlife Preserve
Rock Islands, Palau

Nan Madol, Pohnpei

Lakalaka, Tonga

'Ie Samoa

Water drummers, Vanuatu

Firewalkers, Fiji

Ha'amonga 'a Mau'i
Historic Park, Tonga

Sandroing, Vanuatu

East Rennell, Solomon Is

**PACIFIC
HERITAGE HUB**

USP
FACULTY OF ARTS,
LAW AND EDUCATION
Oceania Centre for Arts,
Culture and Pacific Studies



About USP

- Established in 1968
- Owned and governed by 12 member countries
- Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.
- Main campus based in Suva, Fiji.
- 14 other campuses around the region.
- Between 20 – 30K students annually.
- Programmes of study offered via face-to-face, online and blended mode of delivery.
- Website: <https://www.usp.ac.fj/>



State of ICH Education

- Culture yet to be fully mainstreamed in basic education (Y1 – 13)
- Some emphasis on Mother Tongue in early years (Y1 – 3) and as optional language of study
- Treatment of art and culture studies as extra-curricular subjects (i.e. non-examinable or: subject of choice)

Some Positive developments at the regional level:

- Pacific Regional Education Framework 2018 – 2030 “Moving towards Education 2030” emphasizes the critical role of culture, language & Identity
- Pacific Regional Culture Strategy 2010 – 2020; and 2020 – 2030 (IP)
- USP: Pacific Vernacular Language and Pacific Language Studies (certificate, diploma, teaching subject or BA major) – Fijian, Hindi, Cook Is Maori, Tongan and Niuafo’ou, Vagahau Niue, Vanuatu Language Studies and Rotuman as a Minor. + Beginner/ conversational course.
- USP: Professional Certificate in Heritage Management & BA Major in Pacific Studies, Heritage & Arts
- USP: 2 New upcoming Foundation level courses (Y13) in Pacific Studies

Experience

My involvement

- 2014 – 2017 Curriculum Advisor
- 2017 – to-date Director Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture & Pacific Studies

Incorporating ICH into the curriculum

- Evidence based on previous situational analysis
- Regional request through Pacific Heritage Hub in 2013

A Timeline

- *Pacific World Heritage Action Plan (PWHAP) 2010–2015*
- *Regional Cultural Strategy (RCS) 2010–2020 “Investing in Pacific Cultures”*
- *Pacific Culture & Education Strategy (C&E) 2010–2015*
- *UNESCO World Heritage Workshop of the Pacific States Parties (2011)*
- 2012 The Pacific Heritage Hub (PHH) est. Aug, 2012 as a UNESCO facility
- 2013 PHH inaugural steering committee meeting (Feb 26 – 27, 2013)
- 2014 Pacific Studies Programme Advisory Committee (Jul 20, 2014)
- 2015 Early discussions about what programmes might look like; initial country consultations; & discussions with UNESCO Apia Office
- 2016 Presentation to Council of Pacific Arts and Culture (CPAC) and Culture Ministers Meeting; & incorporated into Faculty Business Plan 2016–2018
- 2016–2018 Curriculum Design; Internal University accreditation requirements; & discussions with UNESCO Apia
- 2018 Presentation to CPAC and Culture Ministers Meeting
- 2020 Semester 2 - 1st Cohort of Professional Certificate in Heritage Management

Curriculum Development

The challenge was to design programmes that:

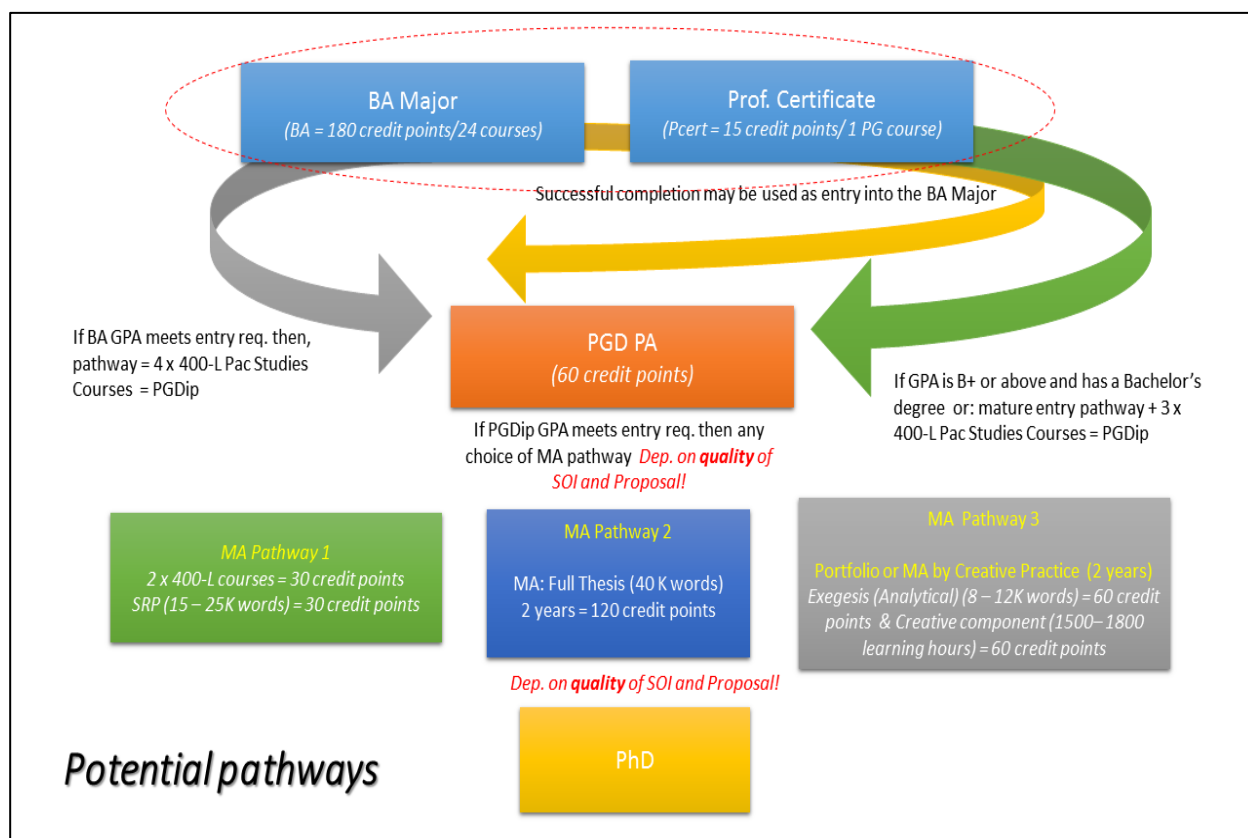
- (a) Fit within the existing Pacific Studies structure;
- (b) Meet regional needs i.e. *Pacific Heritage focus*; and,
- (c) Is comparable with other comparator universities.

Two (2) programmes emerged:

1. Professional Certificate in Heritage Management
2. Bachelor of Arts in Pacific Studies, Heritage and Arts

Curriculum Foundations Checklist

- ☐ Relevance
- ☐ Readiness
- ☐ Resources
- ☐ Sustainability



At a glance

Professional Certificate in Heritage Management

For Pacific Heritage Practitioners

PAP01 Introduction to Heritage Conservation & Management (Core)

PAP02 Heritage Stewardship & Sustainable Development in the Pacific (Core)

PAP03 Planning & Practice for the Cultural Curator

PAP04 The Economics of Heritage Management

PAP05 Sustainability Issues in Heritage Management & Tourism

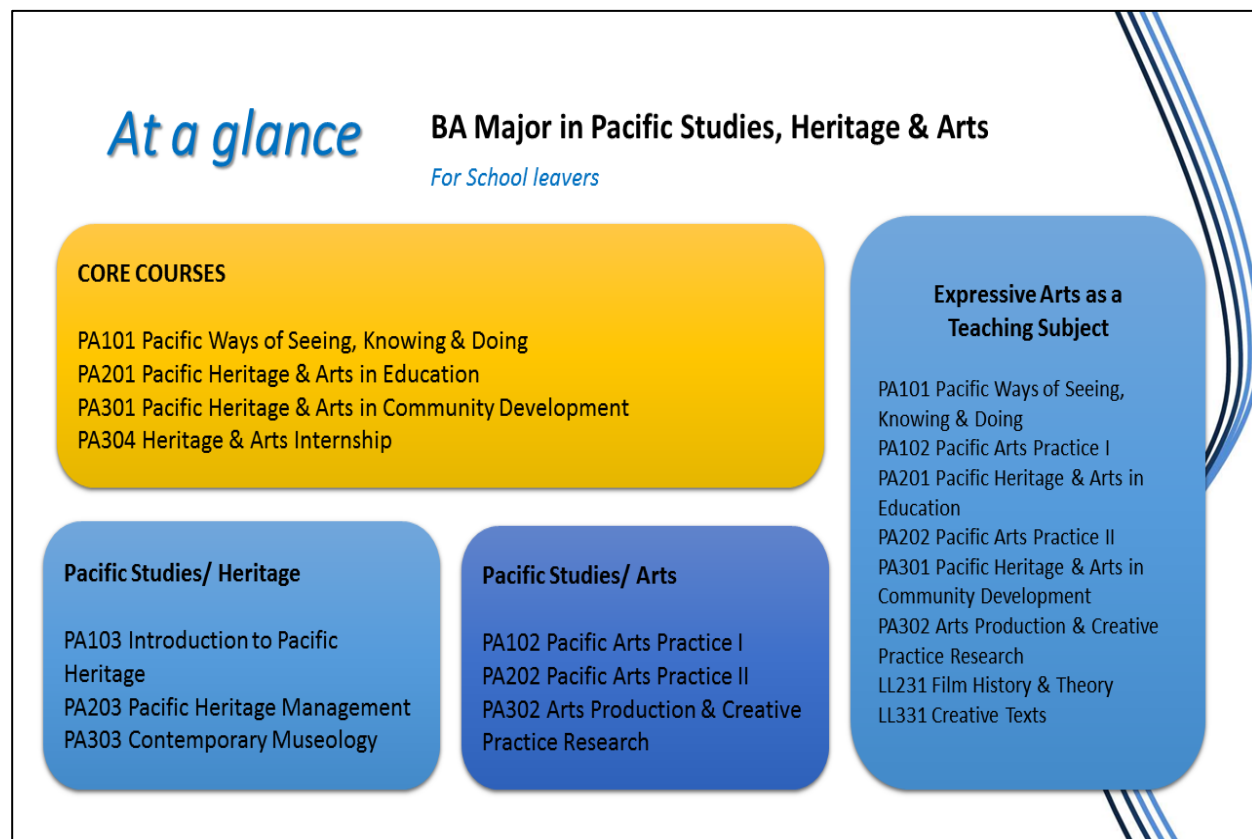
PAP06 Heritage Project Management

PAP07 Heritage Practicum – Field Research (Core)

***Six courses to completion**

Special Admission Requirements:

- Recognised prior learning based on five years of relevant work experience and pass in Senate recognised Year 12/Form 6 or equivalent with English; and
- Support letter from employer stating work experience and responsibilities; and,
- Letter of recommendation from a national heritage agency.



Issues in Curriculum Development

Social Issues/Needs

- Guided by previous needs-analysis
- Designing pedagogy and assessment to meet practitioner needs
- Recognition that there is a lack of scholarships in the area of heritage & arts

Challenges

- Pacific Materials and Resources
- Blended or online mode of delivery
- Justification of the programme to various levels of committees
- Business Case/ viability
- Capturing the wide range of student interests and sector needs
- Creating awareness about career pathways in heritage and arts sectors

Curriculum Development & Inter-regional Cooperation

- Early days to comment on student learning of ICT and teaching ICH practice
- Intra-regional work necessary
- Inter-regional engagement opportunities
- Looking to form or join some discussion forums with other institutions that cover :
 - diverse cultural and linguistic regions
 - Holistic approaches to heritage (natural & cultural/ TH & ICH)
 - Specific ICH programmes and courses

Thank you
Vinaka Vakalevu
Tankyu tumas

AP Dr. Frances C Koya Vaka'uta
Director Oceania Centre for Arts, Culture & Pacific Studies
Faculty of Arts, Law & Education
The University of the South Pacific

E1: cresantia.koyavakauta@usp.ac.fj

E2: cfkoya@gmail.com

www.usp.ac.fj