COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
The project adopts Participatory Action Research as a framework for grassroots development among multi-ethnic island communities, who have collectively taken their community development agenda into own hands. The Losuia Community organized themselves into grassroots research teams to conduct village level data-gathering, participatory social mapping, and community dialogues leading to participatory design of viable micro-projects. Doing baseline research of their own, the grassroots communities have managed to equip themselves with baseline information for the participatory planning and design of a strategic Community Resource Center as a pilot community-managed development project. The design adopts the architectural and socio-cultural value of the Trobriand “Yam House” as an indigenous icon of cultural resilience.

DRAWINGS RESOURCE CENTRE

LOSUIA COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTRE

PROJECT OVERVIEW
A nascent multi-ethnic community of indigenous Trobriand islanders and local migrants from neighbouring Milne Bay islands are moving forward to collectively build a multi-purpose community centre in Losuia, Kiriwina Island. The community-driven project aims to build grassroots capacities for addressing and pursing collectively identified strategic development goals. Key affected sectors themselves, including women, students, people with disabilities and elderly citizens, have directly represented their respective agendas and contributed in the collective design and construction of an emerging Community Resource Centre.

The diversified Losuia community is currently mobilizing resources for incrementally building up their collectively designed Community Resource Centre as a strategic base for:
- Creating accessible space for vital services and social inclusion of vulnerable groups and minority sectors.
- Developing strategic space and an enabling environment for multi-ethnic collaboration towards a common development agenda.
- Promoting sustainable peace and security based on traditional relational processes of peace building and conflict management.
- Demonstrating climate-adaptive designs and alternative building technology based on indigenous knowledge and traditional communal land tenure.
- Involving women and other marginalized sectors in local development and governance.