**Milika Naqasima Sobey**

**Profession:** Consultant

**Education:** Ph.D. ( Environmental Biology) from the University of Essex, UK.

**Key areas of current work:** After 20 years as an academic teaching undergraduate courses in Marine Biology and Fish & Fisheries Biology and supervising postgraduate students at the University of the South Pacific, I joined the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Oceania Regional Office (IUCN ORO) where I worked for six years managing large donor-funded projects in climate change. I now work as Project Inception and Capacity Adviser for the Ridge to Reef Program in the Geosciences Division, SPC.  I have extensive work experience in the Pacific region particularly in PNG, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Samoa.

I am a marine scientist by training and my PhD was in biogeochemistry where I looked at the role of bottom sediments in the Nitrogen cycle in a temperate estuary versus a tropical lagoon system.  I have been involved in numerous Environmental Impact Assessments.

I am currently a Management Council member of Nature Fiji-Mareqeti Viti, and Executive Management Committee member of the Fiji Environmental Law Association and Chair of the Fiji Higher Education Commission

**I got involved in the WiFN-Fiji** because my Masters was on the *Batissa violacea* (Fij, kai) fishery which is dominated by women.  I did a stock assessment of the fishery in the Rewa River and looked at public health aspects of the fishery.  This sparked my interest in women and fisheries issues and so when the Network was first established in 1993, I was one of the first to sign up as a member. I have, through various projects, kept an active interest in women and fisheries issues.

