



FIJI CLIMATE CHANGE BULLETIN

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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EVENTS & WORKSHOPS

CLIMATE CHANGE ACT 2021 ROADMAP WORKSHOP



The Climate Change Division (**CCD**), of the Office of the Prime Minister, recently organized a workshop to dissect and analyze key indicators and progress triggers of the Climate Change Act. The key objective of the workshop was to discuss the development of a comprehensive roadmap for activities related to the Climate Change Act 2021.

The workshop focused on various Climate Change thematic areas such as Climate Adaptation, Mitigation, Oceans, Finance, and Governance. Participants were also clustered together to discuss key activities under the Climate Change roadmap priority areas. The discussions aimed to identify and prioritize specific action plans to address the challenges presented by climate change. The key discussion parameters included thematic areas, KPIs/indicators, priority level, Donor funding and timelines.

Overall, the conclusion of the workshop provided a sense of progress made towards developing a comprehensive Climate Change Roadmap and a clear plan of implementation for the year.



INAUGURAL NATIONAL CARBON MARKET STRATEGY ROADMAP CONSULTATION WORKSHOP



The Climate Change Division (CCD) of the Office of the Prime Minister successfully held the Inaugural National Carbon Market Strategy Roadmap Consultation Workshop on 1 May 2023 in Suva, Fiji following an Introductory Webinar on 4 April 2023. In recognizing the range of carbon market mechanisms, stakeholders, and implications of trading mitigation outcomes, the development of a National Carbon Market Strategy Roadmap through an inclusive national consultative process will help to identify strategic priorities and objectives that will shape Fiji's engagement in carbon markets moving forward.

This initiative is being supported by the Government of Australia, with the Carbon Market Institute (CMI) assisting in consultations and technical assessments. The Consultation Workshop was attended by a broad range of key stakeholders with interests and relevance to the collaborative efforts required to navigate carbon market mechanisms to help inform the development of the Strategy Roadmap, including the many emerging opportunities, challenges and issues related to market-based mechanisms.

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TECHNOLOGY NEEDS ASSESSMENT (TNA) PROJECT: TECHNOLOGY ACTION PLANS (TAPS) VALIDATION WORKSHOP



The Climate Change Division of the Office of the Prime Minister, Government of Fiji, hosted the Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) Project: Technology Action Plans (TAPs) Validation Workshop on Wednesday 24 May, 2023 at the Holiday Inn Fiji. Technology Needs Assessment (TNA) is supported operationally by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). TAPs are the deliverables of the third and final phase of the TNA project. They are keystones or bridges between the technology prioritization and implementation phases.

The Technology Action Plans (TAPs) build upon the technology prioritization in phase one and the barrier analysis and enabling frameworks identified in phase two. Each TAP entails a set of actions and the indicative budget for its implementation over a period. The TAPs also identify risks, funding sources, responsible agencies, and indicators for monitoring and evaluation. This interdisciplinary workshop presented the opportunity for collaboration and knowledge sharing.

FIRST CLOSED SECTOR WORKING GROUP TRAINING SESSION FOR 2023



The Climate Change Division (CCD) of the Office of the Prime Minister as the National Designated Authority (NDA) Secretariat hosted the First Closed Sector Working Group (SWG) Training Session for 2023. The training focused on the role of SWGs and Concept Note Review process.

The primary objective of this training session was to enhance the capacity to effectively manage, facilitate, and exchange information within the SWGs. By strengthening the coordination mechanism of the SWGs, the session aimed to support continuous engagement with stakeholders.

The Concept Note was reviewed on Nature Based Solutions that had been reviewed by Climate Change Division and needed additional work before being presenting to SWGs for review. The training was useful to transmit the need for SWGs to input their knowledge and perspectives in future projects to ensure sustainability of the projects and limit potential future challenges.

MOU BETWEEN GOVERNMENT OF FIJI & WAITT INSTITUTE



Fiji has once again demonstrated its dedication to ocean protection and sustainable management by reaffirming its commitment through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Waitt Institute.

This commitment serves as a crucial catalyst for the support and sustainable growth of Fiji's ocean industries, while simultaneously ensuring the protection and preservation of vital ocean habitats and resources. This program will incorporate community and stakeholder engagement, scientific research, traditional knowledge and coordination with government agencies and NGOs.

The Government of Fiji, in collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Forestry, Ministry of Environment, and the Ministry of Finance, stands firmly behind this program. By collectively endorsing this endeavor, they aim to enhance long-term economic stability, improve livelihoods, foster thriving communities, and safeguard the health of ocean ecosystems.

In essence, the program signifies Fiji's steadfast dedication to not only developing its ocean industries but also ensuring their sustainability.

10TH NATIONAL OCEAN POLICY STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING



The Climate Change Division (CCD) of the Office of the Prime Minister in its capacity as the Secretariat of the National Ocean Policy Steering Committee (NOPSC) hosted its 10th steering committee meeting to highlight inter alia, the implementation of Fiji's National Ocean Policy (NOP) on Friday 26 May. The meeting provided an update on the progress of activities under the NOP as well as a breakdown of activities from the partnership that Fiji established with the Blue Prosperity Foundation in 2021 (the partnership was renewed in 2023 by the Hon. Prime Minister of Fiji) through a 5-year work program to support the implementation of Fiji's NOP.

It was attended by members of the NOPSC from Government ministries that included representatives from the Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources, Ministry of Youth and Sports, Ministry of Public Works and Meteorological Services & Transport, Office of the Prime Minister, Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Environment. Observers from NGOs, CSOs and academic institutions were also in attendance.

The Blue Prosperity Fiji (BPF) team provided updates on their work that is to help support, implement and operationalize certain elements of Fiji's National Ocean Policy. These included their ocean use survey whereby information obtained would help to inform decision making processes around marine spatial planning, their ocean expedition which was officially launched on May 15, 2023 as well as other general updates with communications and legal aspects.

SPC also delivered a short presentation that complements the work of the Fiji Government and the steering committee. One main point highlighted was the Pacific Solution Integrated Ocean Management Program that started in early February of this year with its main purpose of supporting countries with national ocean policies and implementing them.

FIJI SECURES GRANT FINANCING FOR FIJI RURAL ELECTRIFICATION FUND



The Government of Fiji was able to secure a grant financing of USD 750,000 from the United States Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) to assist with a feasibility study on the implementation of solar mini grid systems in 75 rural and remote communities in Fiji. This support is part of the US Government's Pacific Island Strategic Infrastructure Initiative demonstrating concrete action toward deepening US engagement on infrastructure development with the Pacific Islands. The feasibility study is expected to be comprehensive comprising of a technical scoping, geospatial mapping as well as an economic and financial modeling and analysis. The Arizona State University (ASU) will be leading the feasibility study with support of the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and Xendee Corporation and this work will form the design of Phase 3 of the Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF).

While speaking at the Grant Announcement Ceremony earlier this quarter at the US Embassy in Suva, the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Finance Mr. Shiri Gounder (as Fiji's signatory for the grant and one of the three Board of Trustees for FREF) was pleased to express Fiji's gratitude for this support and partnership with the US through the USTDA. Whilst in the presence of the US Ambassador to Fiji, Her Excellency Ms. Marie Damour, GGGI's Deputy Director General Ms. Helena McLeod and ASU's Professor Nathan Johnson, Mr. Gounder reiterated Fiji's confidence in the USTDA's feasibility study together with the ASU and GGGI's guidance that would "bring successful outcomes that will contribute to a clean and sustainable growth in Fiji's energy sector". He also indicated that "only 96% of people in Fiji have access to electricity and through FREF, our Government is striving to address the energy needs of the remaining 4% of our population." In support, Her Excellency Ms. Damour also assured that "With support from the US, the Government of Fiji along with public and private sector partners will begin to create market opportunities for investors in clean energy and support affordable energy access for rural communities.

With other key stakeholders present at the ceremony, It was encouraging to witness Fiji form partnerships in its venture to provide clean and affordable energy to its people. The ASU along with the GGGI and Xendee Corporation will be working closely with the Ministry of Finance and the Office of the Prime Minister's Climate Change Division in the facilitation of this work which is expected to be completed within 18 months.

DRUA INNOVATION SMALL GRANT SCHEME LAUNCH EVENT



In partnership with the Luxembourg Government, the Assistant Minister in the Office of the Prime Minister, Hon. Sakiusa Tubuna, launched the Luxembourg-Fiji Drua Innovation Small Grant Scheme in a bid to advance efforts of building climate resilience in Fiji. The scheme will enable companies, Non-Government Organizations, community cooperatives and individuals, the opportunity to apply for small grants of up to \$75,000 dollars to advance efforts in building resilience against the drastic impacts of climate change.

The Luxembourg- Fiji Drua Innovation Small Grant scheme will be merit based and on the indicators and requirements that have been set in the 'call for proposals document' to ensure these investments create sustainable outcomes and that the initiatives themselves are well aligned with key national objectives. The Drua Incubator initiative is a team within the Climate Change Division of the Office of the Prime Minister that is dedicated to the development and piloting of new financial products through partnerships and research.

WRITE SHOP FOR DRUA GRANT SCHEME



Over 70 talented applicants, 30 women (both groups & individuals) gathered in Suva, Fiji to seek the support they need to bring their innovative ideas to life at the Drua Innovation Small Grant Scheme Write-Shop. During the Write-Shop, the applicants engaged in workshops, brainstorming sessions, and one-on-one mentorship, all designed to refine their ideas and develop comprehensive project proposals. Our team of experts generously shared their knowledge and experiences, providing invaluable guidance to the budding innovators for the Drua Grant scheme.

CLIMATE AND CLEAN AIR CONFERENCE 2023



The Climate and Clean Air Coalition (CCAC) and the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) hosted the Climate and Clean Air Conference 2023: Air Quality Action Week. The event convened international stakeholders, such as government representatives, intergovernmental bodies, donors, and civil society organizations to address the impact of air pollution on public health, the environment, development, and climate. Two significant takeaways from the conference were:

- The need for a comprehensive strategy that integrates greenhouse gas and air pollution inventories, vital in reducing short-lived climate pollutants.
- The urgent requirement to mobilize finance to bridge the gaps in climate and air quality action.

For Fiji, and indeed other Small Island Development States (SIDS), one of the most notable developments was the endorsement of the new SIDS Action Plan. This marked a significant milestone as it recognized the unique challenges and vulnerabilities of these nations to climate change and air pollution impacts. Moreover, Fiji, along with other island nations, can now anticipate more tailored support, knowledge sharing, and action plans to tackle air quality issues and climate-related challenges. Furthermore, the approval of the new Youth Strategy by the CCAC during the conference underpins a global commitment to actively engage the younger generations in climate action. This can have profound implications for Fiji, given its vibrant youth population, as it creates avenues for them to become solution leaders, lending fresh perspectives and driving innovative initiatives.

Lastly, the emphasis on cities as frontrunners in combating air pollution underscores the need for Fiji's urban centers to adopt sustainable practices, promote cleaner transportation, and develop localized strategies for pollution control. The collaborative tone of the conference suggested a broadened scope of cooperation, which could present Fiji with more partnership opportunities, both regionally and globally. In essence, the outcomes of the Climate and Clean Air Conference 2023, through its insights and strategies, are set to not only guide global policy decisions but also influence Fiji's path towards creating pollution-free economies, elevating stakeholder consciousness, and committing to a cleaner and healthier environment.

FIRST OPEN SECTOR WORKING GROUP SESSION FOR 2023



The Climate Change Division (CCD) of the Office of the Prime Minister as the National Designated Authority (NDA) Secretariat hosted the First Open Sector Working Group (SWG) Hybrid Information Session for 2023 at Grand Pacific Hotel on 26 May.

The main purpose of this Open SWG meeting was to inform members on Fiji's inter-ministerial work coordinated by the Climate Change Division (CCD) including Green Climate Fund (GCF) readiness, providing updates on COP 27 outcomes and setting the stage for COP 28. Private sector engagement strategy was also part of the objectives. The specific objectives for the sessions were to:

- Provide updates on the work of Climate Change Division.
- Brief members on Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Sector Working group process.
- Update on COP27 outcomes and challenges.
- Develop key Agenda for COP28 based on thematic areas and country priorities.

The participants were from diverse and multisectoral group which included representatives from Government, private sector, academics, CSOs, NGOs, Researchers, youths and University graduates. The information session was split into 4 key sessions and an extra session for questions and feedbacks for all the presentations. It included presentations and updates from Climate Change Division streams and United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) presented on supporting private sector to contribute to the climate change agenda and NDA Private Sector Engagement Strategy presentation, followed up with final session that was based on group work by sectors including Agriculture, Energy, E-mobility and Infrastructure sector analysis. The meeting with stakeholders from different sectors enabled useful perspectives and solutions for engagement with the private sector.

SUBREGIONAL TRAINING ON APPLYING THE PACIFIC IMPACTS ANALYSIS METHODOLOGY AND UTILIZING THE ADAPTATION IMPACTS DATABASE



During the week of 12-16 June, the Pacific Climate Change Centre, in collaboration with the EU funded Climate Change Alliance Plus Scaling Up Pacific Adaptation (GCCA+SUPA) Project, organized a significant subregional training event in Apia, Samoa. The purpose of the training was to facilitate the application of the Pacific Impacts Analysis Methodology and the utilization of the Adaptation Impacts Database. The training brought together Climate Change practitioners from various Pacific Island countries, including Fiji, Kiribati, Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated State of Micronesia, and Tonga. These professionals were chosen for their expertise and involvement in climate change initiatives within their respective countries.

Throughout the training, participants had the opportunity to enhance their understanding of the Pacific Impacts Analysis Methodology, a comprehensive framework that enables the assessment and analysis of climate change impacts. The methodology assists practitioners in identifying vulnerabilities and developing effective adaptation strategies to address the impacts of climate change. The training sessions involved a combination of theoretical presentations, practical field trip to Savaii, and interactive discussions. Participants had the opportunity to apply the Pacific Impacts Analysis Methodology and utilize the Adaptation Impacts Database in simulated scenarios, allowing them to gain hands-on experience and strengthen their skills. Furthermore, the training fostered valuable networking opportunities, enabling participants to exchange knowledge, share best practices, and build collaborative relationships.

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES (SOP) FOR PLANNED RELOCATION IN FIJI LAUNCH EVENT



Section 76 (2) of the Climate Change Act directs the Minister responsible for Climate Change with the assistance of the Taskforce on Relocation and Displacement to operationalise the Planned Relocation Guidelines through the development of the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for planned relocations. After close to 3 years of engagement and consultations with stakeholders and development partners, the SOPs was launched by Deputy Prime Minister Manoa Kamikamica on 18 April 2023 at the Grand Pacific Hotel. Through the lessons learnt from Fiji's past 6 state led relocations, the SOP strives to better coordinate and manage the relocation efforts undertaken by government implementing agencies on the ground. Special mention of the Task Force for Relocation and Displacement Technical Working Group comprised of technical government representatives together with the GIZ Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (HMCCC) team that have been working diligently behind the scenes in ensuring that the SOP is fit for purpose and an enabler for effective future relocations.

LAUNCH OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY GUIDELINE FOR THE CLIMATE RELOCATION OF COMMUNITIES TRUST FUND AND INFORMATION BRIEFS ON THE TRUST FUND



Due to the complexity of the relocation process and the financing mechanisms for relocation, two briefs were developed to allows the public and development partners to have access to a more digestible information pack which summaries the Climate Relocation Trust Fund and the SOP for planned relocation. The briefs was launched by the Assistant Minister for Finance, Mr. Esrom Immanuel on 19 May 2023 at Novotel Hotel in Lami. The Assistant Minister had included in his speech that "the lives and livelihoods of our communities are increasing endangered as these events increase in severity as communities are no longer safe and some see relocations as their only option. Also well planned relocation process is a costly exercise which is why the Climate Relocation Communities Trust Fund serves to directly fund planned relocation activities which would be done through assessments, studies, and infrastructural support". The development of guidelines and briefs in Fiji reflects the country's dedicated efforts and commitment to address the challenges posed by climate change.

Recognizing the urgent need to mobilize climate finance and allocate it effectively, Fiji has taken proactive measures to prioritize the well-being and resilience of its climate-vulnerable communities. Recognizing the collaborative nature of addressing climate change, Fiji has received support from international partners such as New Zealand. The New Zealand High Commissioner to Fiji, Charlotte Darlow, has emphasized her country's commitment to assist Fiji in terms of financing and technical expertise.

Overall, the development of guidelines and briefs, along with the establishment of the Climate Relocation Communities Trust Fund, reflects Fiji's proactive and comprehensive approach to addressing the impacts of climate change. By prioritizing the needs of climate-vulnerable communities and mobilizing climate finance strategically, Fiji aims to build resilience and safeguard the well-being of its people in the face of an uncertain climate future.

GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE ALLIANCE PLUS SCALING UP PACIFIC ADAPTATION (GCCA+ SUPA) FIELD COUNTRY VISIT



The Climate Change Division in partnership with SPREP GCCA +SUPA Project were in Daku, Tailevu, Viro, Ovalau, and Soliyaga, Beqa to apply the impacts methodology (light) profiled effectiveness of the adaptation interventions undertaken in the various areas to combat the impacts of climate change.

Following the site visits, a training session on the impacts methodology was undertaken with conservation officers from various Provincial Offices, the Divisional Commissioners Office, and government staff responsible for monitoring and evaluation of disaster response efforts. This training aimed to build capacity and enhance the understanding of the impacts methodology among key stakeholders involved in climate change adaptation initiatives.

The work undertaken by the Climate Change Division, in partnership with the SPREP GCCA +SUPA Project, demonstrates Fiji's proactive approach in addressing climate change and its commitment to supporting vulnerable communities in adapting to the impacts of a changing climate. By leveraging methodologies, conducting site visits, and providing training opportunities, Fiji is taking important steps towards building climate resilience and ensuring the effectiveness of adaptation interventions across the country.

FIJI TASKFORCE ON THE RELOCATION AND DISPLACEMENT OF COMMUNITIES VULNERABLE TO THE IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



The Taskforce on the Relocation and Displacement of Communities Vulnerable to the Impacts of Climate Change convened on 05 July 2023, which comprised of senior officials from the various key government stakeholders. The Fiji Taskforce on Relocation and Displacement (FTRD) plays an important steering and coordinating role for all initiatives and processes related to planned relocation. Key on the agenda was the relocation of the village of Nabavatu, Macuata, in accessing the Trust Fund on Relocation and Displacement. Updates were provided by the team from Commissioner Northern team on the work carried out and the work plan for the relocation of Nabavatu. Also finalised was the TOR of the taskforce in which would mandate its operations.