

# Ministry of Economy

## Summary Report Open Sector Working Group Meeting

12<sup>th</sup> October 2022

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## **List of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

AE	Accredited Entities
CC	Climate Change
CCICD	Climate Change and International Cooperation Division
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAE	Direct Access Entity
FCCP	Fiji Climate Change Portal
FDB	Fiji Development Bank
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GGGI	Global Green Growth Institute
GoF	Government of Fiji
IAE	International Accredited Entities
LEDS	Low Emissions Development Strategy
MoE	Ministry of Economy
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	National Determined Contribution
NDP	National Development Plan
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NOL	No Objection Letter
RBF	Reserve Bank of Fiji
SAP	Simplified Approval Process
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing State
SWG	Sector Working Group
UN	United Nations
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Program

# 1. Introduction

The Ministry of Economy (MoE), which is Fiji's National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), established climate finance Sector Working Groups (SWGs) under 4 thematic areas<sup>1</sup> in November 2020 for organisations interested in participating in dialogues with the NDA and pursuing project financing from the GCF. Since the establishment of the SWGs, the NDA has been working on its outreach to stakeholders, so they are well informed of processes, requirements, and capacity development initiatives relating to accessing climate financing via the GCF.

In that context, the NDA has two stakeholder engagement mechanisms to deliver on their Secretariat roles:

1. The use of an online NDA portal to disseminate information and share updates on climate finance-related training sessions, events; and
2. Direct stakeholder engagement through the SWGs with both the consultative (closed) and open membership groups.

This report provides a summary of the proceedings and outcomes of the first open membership SWG meeting for the year 2022 held in Suva on 12<sup>th</sup> October.

## 2. Objectives and approach

### 2.1 Objectives

The main purpose of this open membership SWG meeting was to inform members Fiji on inter-ministerial work coordinated by the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division (CCICD) including GCF readiness, provide updates on COP 26 outcomes and setting the stage for COP27.

The specific objectives for the sessions were to:

- Provide updates on the work of Climate Change and International Cooperation Division.
- Brief members on Green Climate Fund and Sector Working Groups process.
- Update on COP26 outcomes and challenges.
- Develop key Agenda for COP27.

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<sup>1</sup> SWG 1 - Sustainable Livelihoods and Healthy Communities (Access to food, water and health security); SWG 2 - Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Natural Resources Management; SWG 3 - Climate Resilient Infrastructure, Sustainable Energy and Built Environment; SWG 4 - Sustainable Transport

## 2.2 Approach

The open SWG meeting was convened through a hybrid approach whereby participants joined in physically and virtually via Zoom platform. The meeting lasted for three (3) hours from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM (Fiji time) with the main facilitators being Mr. Kushaal Raj (Head of CCICD), Specialists from CCICD, Ms. Nathalie Andre Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), whilst Mr. Ashreal Prasad (GGGI) facilitated the virtual participants.

The meeting was split into four (4) key sessions and an extra session for questions and feedbacks for all the presentations. Interactive polls using Mentimeter were also used throughout the meeting to gauge feedback and encourage active participation from the meeting attendees.

An agenda for the meeting (refer to Annex 1) was prepared and circulated prior to the meeting date.

## 3. Participation

A total of **124 individuals** registered for the event prior to the meeting date. Total attendance physically being 63 whilst virtual attendance was 23, therefore the total attendance for the meeting was 69% of the total registered.

The attendees forming part of the open membership included new sign up as well as regular members who registered in 2021 and attended previous meeting. The participation was diverse and multi-sectoral which included representation from government sector, private sector, academics, youths, and fresh graduates from universities, CSO's and NGO's. The position levels were also very diverse whereby the highest level of representation was from many technical managers through to local consultants, community workers and research students.



Figure 1: Open SWG meeting participants.

## 4. Session content

There were four (4) key sessions for the Open SWG meeting, not including the official welcome and general feedback. Summaries of the proceedings for each session are detailed below.

For more information on each session, please refer to the consolidated slides and recording of the meeting in Annex 5.3 and 5.4 respectively.

### 4.1 Opening Remarks- CCICD

In the opening session of the meeting, Mr. Kushaal Raj, Head of CCICD, welcomed all participants on behalf of the Ministry of Economy. During his remarks, Mr. Kushaal Raj highlighted that the timing and open nature of this climate finance open sectoral working group is an opportunity to consolidate messages for COP 27 to be presented by the Fijian Government. Furthermore, emphasizing on the work being carried out by CCICD especially the development and implementation of climate change policies and regulations. He also mentioned that today's sessions will also highlight the work being carried out through GCF funded phase I readiness project and the work to come during phase II.

### 4.2 Opening Remarks- Actg. Commissioner United Kingdom

His Excellency Mr. Welsh reflected on the recent natural disasters that impacted Fiji and the most severe of them being a category 5 cyclone. Mr. Welsh highlighted that these types of devastation were a wakeup call for United Kingdom (UK) and other developed economies to setup up and accept the obligations to the rest of the world.

In addition, the UK has taken lead by becoming the COP chair and genuine efforts to listen and amplify the messages from the Pacific. Mr. Welsh also mentioned that climate and environmental security are strongly interlinked with energy and national security as an example to the Russia's invasion over Ukraine. He also highlighted the efforts of Fiji at COP 26 using its uniquely powerful voice and moral authority by bringing forward ambitious commitments and pushing the major emitters to go further and faster.

Accordingly, Mr. Welsh final message was to continue working together in persuading countries around the world to turn commitments into action and securing the future of our planet.



## 4.3 Session 1: Introduction on Climate Change Division

Mr. Kushaal Raj Head of CCICD provided brief updates of the work carried out at the division and how different streams of work function. Figure 2 indicates the visual representation of the different sections of the CCICD. He highlighted that the reason behind CCICD being part of Ministry of Economy is due to the alignment of climate finance to the budgetary process as well as readiness and accreditation with GCF. The session also provided information on the Climate Change Act 2021 and its purpose as well as the Fiji Climate Change Portal, which is fully online.

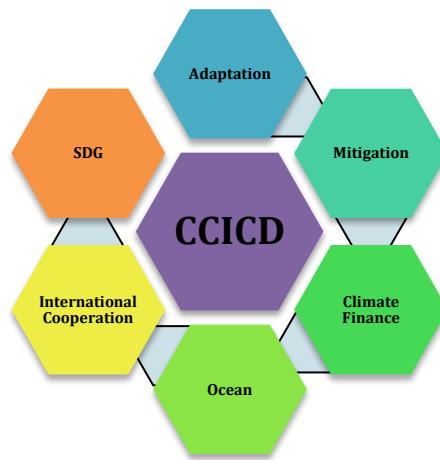


Figure 2: Key Sections within the Fiji CCICD.

### 4.3.1 Adaptation

The Adaptation Section of the CCICD supports the inter-ministerial process relating to adaptation. This process includes activities relating to national climate change adaptation plans, adaptation registry, international reporting, climate mobility, communication & awareness, and monitoring, evaluation, and learning.

- Coordinators of the National Adaptation Plan (NAP).
- Coordinators of Climate Induced Human Mobility Efforts.
- National Focal Point for the Adaptation Fund.

### 4.3.2 Mitigation

The Mitigation stream work focuses on the development, review and tracking of effective strategies for managing and reducing Greenhouse Gas emissions. The team also works to support the consistent and transparent public reporting and tracking of emissions and policy effectiveness.

- Coordinators of the NDC and Low Emissions Development Strategy.
- Developing Sectoral Monitoring and Reporting Systems.
- Fiji's Representative to the UNFCCC and other Similar Global Commitments on Climate Mitigation and Carbon Markets.

### 4.3.3 Oceans

The Oceans Section of the CCICD works with multiple stakeholders across the Government, Non-Government, and private sector agencies working in the marine space.

- Coordinators of the National Ocean Policy (NOP)- costing being carried out.
- Key work areas include: blue economy, international reporting, ocean-climate nexus, [UN Decade of Ocean Science](#), Marine Protected Areas, ocean accounts, ban on single-use plastics, ocean literacy and advocacy and ocean governance.

### 4.3.4 Finance

The Climate Finance Stream is a cross cutting section responsible for strategising existing and new mechanisms to mobilise innovative climate finance. This includes instruments from a broad range of bilateral, multilateral, international and other sources. In addition, the climate finance stream accounts and manages the existing fiscal climate finance flows such as Green Bonds, the Environment and Climate Adaptation Levy (ECAL) and Green Fiscal Concessions. The stream also overlooks the:

- National Designated Authority (NDA) to the Green Climate Fund (GCF)
- Coordination of Domestic Climate Finance
- Administering of the Drua Incubator
- Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF)

### 4.3.5 International Cooperation

The International Cooperation Division (ICD) of the Ministry of Economy is responsible for the coordination and administration of all Government received aid.

This includes cash grants and aid-in-kind. The ICD work is largely composed of operational aid management and coordination including monitoring and evaluation. The Division is also responsible for designing policy measures to facilitate effective aid delivery to the Fijian Government and other recipient agencies.

### 4.3.6 Questions and Answers

**Q. The difference between government ministries and the attempt to bring coherence for the betterment of the communities. The role the Ministry of Environment plays in climate change space and the overlaps and operationally the coherence is yet to reach the ground level. Can there be clear coordination so that communities have clear access to information and services? Raised by CSO.**

**A. Coordination is an issue, however full discussion with line ministries will be a priority so that awareness and advocacy is filtered to the communities in terms of the information and services provided by the government.**

**Q. A suggestion for stronger comprehensive development cooperation policy.**

A. Further conversation with management will be required, however there are SOPs in terms of donor reporting and donor coordination. The policy document should be for whole of government and the division will drive this through the Permanent Secretary. There are some assistances from UNDP in this project and an upcoming plan.

**Q. A comment and suggestion, the finance stream overlaps with the work Reserve Bank of Fiji does. There is need for domestic finance from the private sector to assist CCICD. One example is the work RBF has done in financial inclusion, there are synergies here but what is required from the government is collaboration and capacity building.**

A. The level of coordination strengthening requires a focal point meeting which is pending, this will involve all the line ministries. There is also a private sector working group chaired by the Minister responsible for climate change which will be organised in near future. There is also a national climate change coordination committee for the implementation of the climate change policy. Also, the tourism association has requested to work with the private sector and include climate and environment aspect in their packages.

#### 4.4 Session 2: Introduction to the Green Climate Fund & Sector Working Group

In this session, Nathalie Andre (GGGI), highlighted the GCF governance structure in Fiji (Figure 3), centralised around the National Designated Authority (NDA) and the stakeholder engagement mechanism.

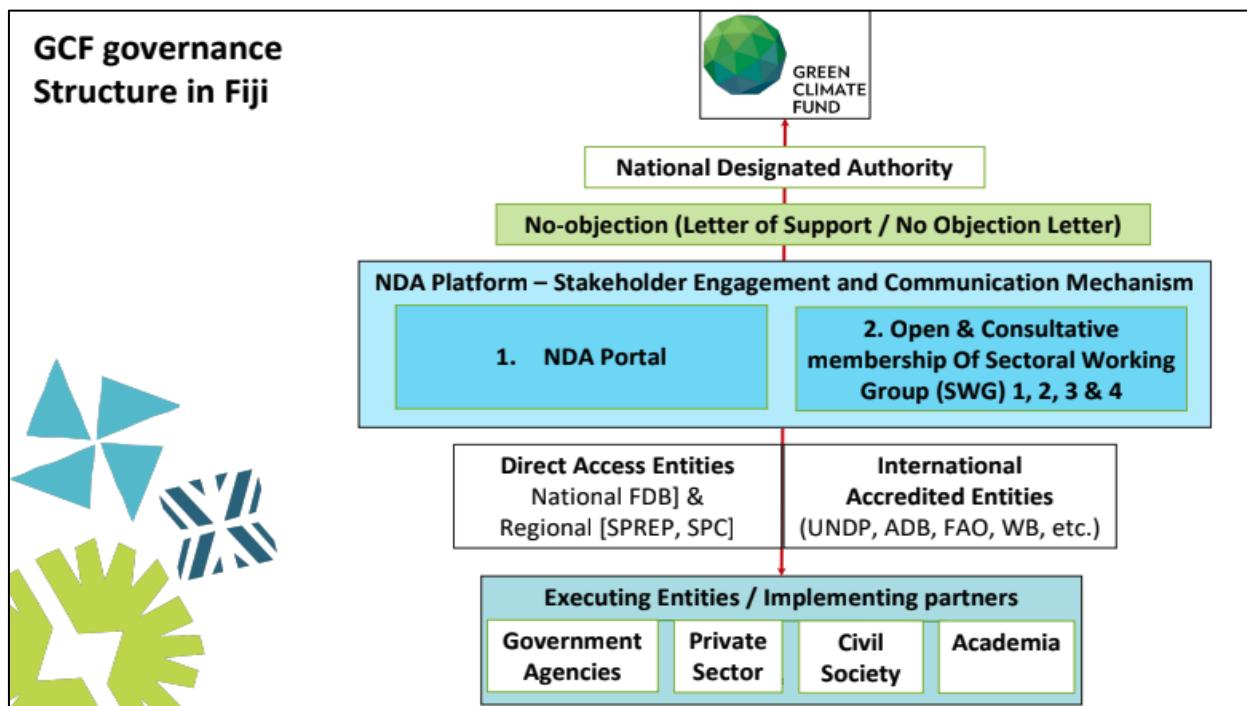


Figure 3: Fiji-GCF Governance Structure

The principles of the stakeholder's engagement mechanism highlighted as to ensure a multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and participatory approach, programmatic and proactive approach, promote gender and social inclusion in the climate change and finance sector.

She also highlighted the achievements of NDA Secretariat in 2020-2022 mainly the NDA portal and two GCF concept notes and processes.

Looking forward with the next phase of readiness support 2022-2024, there will be 4 main elements:

1. **Capacity Building:** Ensure that the NDA staff are trained and the policies, procedures, and stakeholder mechanism necessary;
2. **Strategic Frameworks:** Support MoE to submit its Stage 2 application for accreditation to the GCF;
3. **Institutional and capacity building** support to the FDB, including training to staff and development of new procedures to enable FDB to move towards accreditation upgrade application;
4. **Development of a project pipeline:** by prioritisation of projects, development of concept notes and completion of pre-feasibility studies and PPF applications for both MoE and FDB.

## 4.5 Session 3: COP 26

Mr. Prelish Lal the Acting Climate Finance Specialist from CCICCD briefly informed the participants on the priorities of COP 26. The specialists from CCICCD streams of work presented their outcomes and priorities discussed in COP26 mainly on Adaptation, Mitigation, Oceans and Climate Finance.

The details can be located in the presentation's slides (Annex 5.3).

### 4.5.1 Polling Feedback

The following Mentimeter poll was shared for feedback on COP 26 outcomes.

Poll 1: "*In one word describe the outcome and challenges presented on COP 26*". In this poll, participants were gauged to select a one word response on their view of the outcomes of COP26. A total of 39 participants responded to the poll and the results are illustrated through a word cloud as per Figure 4 below. As indicated in the word cloud, the participants expressed the need for more action with the general disappointment of COP 26 outcome using words such as '*disjointed*', '*pathetic*', '*act now or never*', '*need action*', '*disappointing and non-progressive*'. Nevertheless, there were a few participants that have expressed optimistic feedback through word such as '*promising*', '*progress*', '*hopeful*', '*satisfactory*' and '*workable*'.

**In one word describe the outcome and challenges presented on COP26.**



Figure 4 Poll 1 results

Another key word raised was '*financing*' as this is needed to help developing countries like Fiji to address climate change. This was noted in discussions as disappointing with the non-achievement of the \$100bn goal and the need for funding arrangements for loss and damage which is critical for Fiji - whether this would prove distinct from current financial mechanisms currently in place and its accessibility for Fiji as SIDS.

Participants also highlighted ‘Oceans’ as one of Fiji’s major concerns through sea level rise and activities surrounding aquatic ecosystem and dependence towards food security. In summary the description of the COP26 outcomes were mainly challenging and required more action with focus on financing for adaptation and mitigation in Fiji.

The second poll question, “Was COP 26 outcome satisfactory in your view?” In this poll, the participants were gauged for either a ‘yes’ or ‘no’ response to the question. A total of 47 participants responded to the poll and the results are illustrated in Figure 5 below.

## Was the COP26 outcome satisfactory in your view?

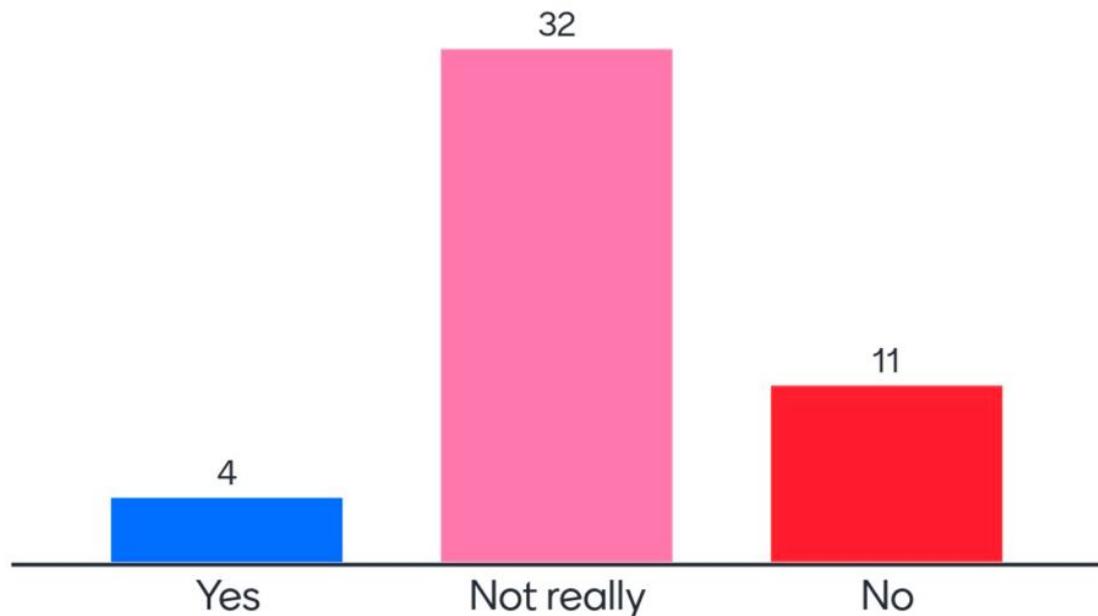


Figure 5 Poll 2 results

The bar graph illustrates the SWG member’s perception of COP 26 and highlights the satisfaction levels. The purpose of this question was to identify Fiji’s opinion of the success of the previous COP and if there is a need for more action.

It is clear that a majority believe that COP26 did not achieve a satisfactory outcome with 32 members responding, ‘not really’ and 11 selecting ‘no’. However, 4 members indicated that the COP26 results were satisfactory. The majority were not satisfied with the outcomes which resonates with the messages from other SIDS and vulnerable countries. This illustration also highlights the disappointment of Fijians towards COP outcomes and indicates the need for action at international and local levels towards climate change impacts.

### 4.6 Session 4: Agenda and Priorities for COP27

The following sessions were presented by CCICD division leads with main points summarised as follows.

#### 4.6.1 Oceans

- Oceans to be streamlined across all relevant agenda items such as on financing, loss and damage, global stock take, technology, capacity building, adaptation, on mitigation streams instead of it just being labelled as a science and research issue.
- Call for a dedicated 3-year work program under the ocean dialogue to discuss cross cutting themes under newly established technical working groups.
- A High-Level Blue Finance Ministerial event at COP27 to commit finance ministers to pledging ocean action and rapid cuts in emissions from the ocean sector.

#### 4.6.2 Mitigation

- Qualitative and quantitative review of Article 6.
- Capacity development on Article 6 taking into consideration of national circumstances as well capacity development on mitigation work program under non-market approaches.
- The work programme should support and enhance parties NDC's and mitigation ambitions.
- Strong capacity development needs and inclusiveness.
- Fiji could apply the strategy of holding high emitting countries accountable for violating their Paris Agreement pledges.

#### 4.6.3 Adaptation

Some of the major priorities for discussion are:

- Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) – Fiji Priorities.
- National adaptation plan review and adaptation fund discussions.
- Nairobi Work Programme
- Increased access to adaptation finance
- Accelerate adaptation investment pipelines
- Human mobility and security in the context of Climate Change - Fiji's Planned Relocation Standard Operation Procedure

#### 4.6.4 Loss and Damage

The main priorities are to maintain strong and unified call for the establishment of an L&D finance/financing facility at COP27, ensure Santiago Network can be operationalised.

#### 4.6.5 Climate finance

The major priorities are to ensure easier and faster access to funding mechanisms resulting in new and additional finance at scale for adaptation. Ensure the 2020 \$100bn goal is met to give confidence across all finance mechanisms.

#### 4.6.6 Polling Feedback

The following Mentimeter poll was shared following Session 4 to rank the priorities for Fiji for COP27. The objective of this poll was to rank the priorities that Fiji will present at the upcoming

COP27. A total of 44 participants voted for the ranking and the results are illustrated in Figure 6 below.

## COP 27 Fiji Priority

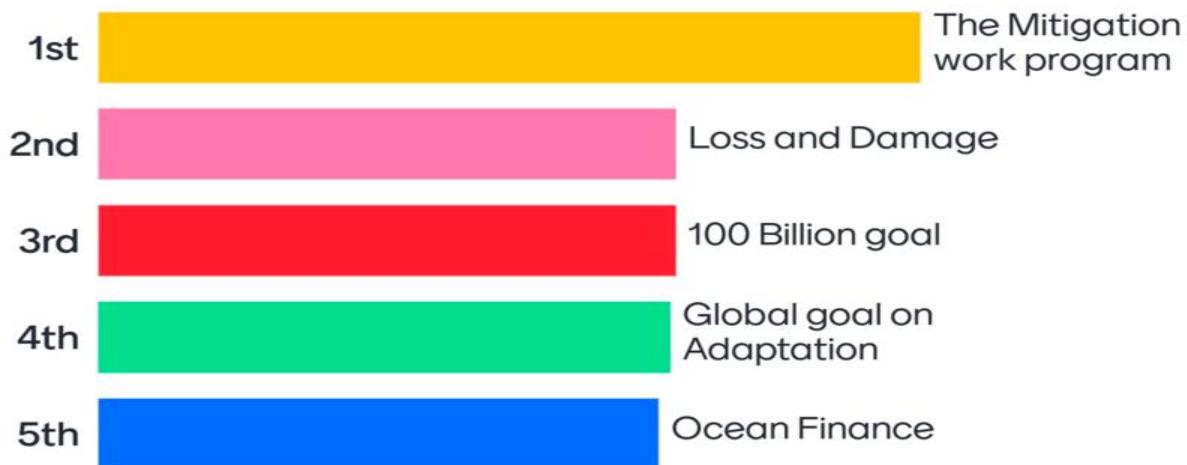


Figure 6 result of the Mentimeter poll for the priorities of COP27

All priorities identified are of high importance to Fiji's climate change space, however the priority according to the SWG being '*the mitigation work programme*' which shows how informed Fiji is and if we do not reach GHG targets globally this will have huge impacts in the future and this being the main message with highest priority at COP27. The second priority is '*loss and damage*' and this being through the impacts of not reaching the GHG target our country has become more vulnerable to more natural disasters and increasing intensities, hence the need to reduce GHG emissions and provide the 100bn dollar promise which is highly required for the loss and damage. With the 3 priorities above forming part of resilience building and adaptation as well as '*ocean finance*' being the last 2 but equally important. The ranking was just an exercise to gauge the information and knowledge of the participants however, in the context of Fiji all these 5 priority areas are basically the top priorities that needs action at COP27.

## 4.7 Session 5: Questions, Answers and Feedbacks

Questions elicited through this session and their corresponding responses from the facilitation team have been noted below. The questions were raised physically at the meeting and partially through the virtual platform.

**Comment:** Mr. Andrew Irvin representing the Micronesian Center for Sustainable Transport, University of the South Pacific was surprised by the prioritisation of mitigation work program which cannot take place without finance and would ultimately be attributable to calls for financing for loss and damage and hitting the \$100 bn commitment. He also mentioned that there was no cross connectivity drawn with what happened with ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) and the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA) market-based

measures and what's happening with the International Maritime Organisation in terms of bids to finance the \$100bn commitment. He further highlighted that colleagues in the Pacific from the Marshall Islands and the Solomon Islands have put up a bid for a \$100 per ton carbon levy that has been assessed to generate up to at least \$75bn a year financing. He also added that Fiji is getting distracted by the Annex 6 discussions and the focus on all of this coupled with the mired political conversation within the COP process allowances are being made for other things to scoot by unattended. The kind of focus that the Fijian Government places on the COP process is disproportionately outsized relative to the amount of attention that the IMO discussions get. He emphasized that as a maritime nation, Fiji should be focusing on the disproportionate impacts its maritime activities have on national economic productivity. He highlighted that Fiji is under resourced and does not have the capacity to handle all these dialogues in silos. They are not being aligned appropriately from an international development and discussion perspective to make sure that the IMO dialogues map the COP dialogues and reflect upon what has been learned from the ICAO dialogues. Mr. Irvin concluded that these were not addressed in the presentations and the conversations mentioned above should be incorporated into the COP dialogue with the IMO and ICAO dialogues going forward.

**Response:** CCICD responded by informing that the proposal for the sourcing of finance for loss and damage has been developed and agreed that scope creep is an issue but would need to be ignored as there is no reason not to discuss something because other agencies are also doing the same. The issue of maritime boundaries has been brought up and its effects on sovereignty and loss of boundaries because of sea level rise. It is also agreed that Fiji should not be pushed into keeping its statements bound within these silos created by the United Nations (UN). The UN has 17 different agencies and bodies that deal with the oceans and just fragmented to the point that it's not even looked at from a holistic government perspective. Concurrence was also provided that there needs to be an improvement in the level of attendance and engagement across these different opportunities to look at the full picture of emissions which cannot be considered without aviation and shipping as a major part.

The Director for the Department of Transport at the Ministry of Commerce, Trade, Tourism and Transport (MCTTT) in contributing to the discussion added that the Department is also following all the discussions at IMO and now supporting the papers that have been put through for the initial strategy on the greenhouse gas emissions reduction. The work of CCICD in this space is also noted and efforts are being made to strike a balance between the discussions.

**Question:** Does Fiji really think realistically setting up a loss and damage facility would result in new and additional finance coming in and would not add onto the bureaucratic processes of such a facility as being set up under the Paris Agreement. Do you really think it will achieve that fast and direct finance mechanism?

**Answer:** CCICD in responding advised that there are 2 different issues to keep in mind. One is the conceptual integrity of having loss and damage as part of the financing discussion and the other is the facility proposal itself. On one hand, Fiji needs loss and damage to be a part of the picture from the top for an array of reasons and not just financing from legal to responsibility related issues dealing with equity under the Paris agreement. Also under the facility side is the recognition that

loss and damage is more about when losses have occurred not when these losses could no longer could be addressed.

**Question:** What local consultations led to Fiji supporting that push on loss and damage and what made you decide based on local context as well as global context?

**Answer:** In response, CCICD advised that Fiji has developed a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) that serves as a guideline for relocation and displacement. There is also a Trust Fund Act guiding the establishment of the Climate Relocation of Communities Trust Fund (CRCTF). These mechanisms have been structured within the Climate Change Act. When funding is received for the relocation of communities it is channeled to the CRCTF and there is an existing process of identification, auditing and understanding governing the trust fund that would indicate whether adaptation measures have been exceeded in that context or whether there is an opportunity to explore relocation options. In the case of Fiji, this is simultaneously viewed as a definite financing gap and there is also very pertinent reasons why it is not appropriate for these issues to be addressed through existing climate finance mechanisms. There are a number of case studies expected to be released ahead of COP 27 to clarify why this particular additional financing is needed.

**Question:** The enhanced transparency framework and what it does?

**Response:** The enhanced transparency framework is an element under the Paris Agreement where Parties report in relation to their mitigation and adaptation commitments. This reporting needs to be more standardised and robust as possible amongst parties.

**Question:** What are voluntary reviews mentioned in the presentations? As you push for this there should be assurance that civil society play a part in doing that because mutual accountability needs to be promoted.

**Question:** What are the existing regional financing facilities available for climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and is that on a wish list going to COP 27?

**Response:** In response, CCICD advised that there are different mechanisms setup in the region looking to address the resilience and innovative insurance mechanism. However, the focus is at the global level and actions that can be progressed through global level negotiations.

**Question:** Pushing of deep-sea mining ban is that opposition from the Fijian government or is it shared across few other countries?

**Response:** The moratorium on deep sea mining is something that has been pushed by the Fijian Government at the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat (PIFS) level and it has been welcomed by certain countries in the Pacific but not all. Fiji's Prime Minister has set a 10-year moratorium on deep sea mining.

**Question:** It's great to see that we are trying to access the \$100bn goal but the real issue is accessing those funds and this is something that should be discussed at COP27 - reducing the bureaucracy of accessing these funds especially with the requirements of the accredited entities, project proposals and concept notes. Will this be part of the COP 27 discussions?

**Response:** Mr. Kunal Singh of the British High Commission in Suva in response clarified that although access to these funds is a major issue, other issues such as absorption and delivery also exist. He added that capacity and resource is also an issue in the implementation of the projects and focus should be directed at how Fiji can increase its capacity building strategy at all levels of the community and the government.

**Question:** What is the alignment or approach at COP27 in terms of regional space and in terms of collective voice from the Pacific or SIDS?

**Response:** In response, CCICD clarified that coordination and coherence is very important and this is something that needs to be promoted and discussed at higher levels especially within the Pacific Island Nations.

**Question:** Dr. Deeksha Krishna from the Fiji National University mentioned that as Fiji builds on, there needs to be more workshops and task forces related to climate change. In terms of capacity building FNU is opening the channel to students and researchers for collaboration. In relation to sustainable land management soil plays a very vital role and is the third largest of soil carbon source. There is a need for more research in Fiji on soil as it is an unrenewable resource and if this could be considered as a motion to put forward in COP 27.

**Feedback and Questions:** Ms. Ellie Macay from GHD Fiji questioned the need to travel places advocating about climate change when its impacts can be visibly seen here on the ground. She added that one of the most important aspects that is not being presented is monitoring and evaluation. From her 17 years of experience, little has transpired in the negotiation space and every year there will be new discussion that will water down previous discussions. She further queried if this was being monitored by the government and how? Monitoring, evaluation, research, and learning is critical because these are the tools that can be used to market what the Pacific is actually trying to aspire. What is our private sector engagement strategy? A question was also raised on whether Fiji has local experts capable of proposal writing and development. Recommendation was made for proposals to be written by locals or Pacific Islanders who are in a better position to understand and associate with the issues being faced in the Pacific.

**Question:** Are there any strategies in place to curtail sugarcane and other agricultural effluent and chemical run-offs into the coastal areas?

**Response:** In response, CCICD advised that work is currently underway with UNEP on the "Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) for Sugarcane Farming in Fiji" project. The project involves:

- Establishing the inventory on various organic manures namely animal and poultry manure, industrial wastes (sugar industry press mud), sugarcane residues, composts and biofertilizers etc.,
- Establishing composting facilities and biofertilizer production units.
- Production and characterisation of nutrient rich composts and biofertilizers.
- Laboratory and field evaluation of organic manures, composts, biofertilizers and chemical fertilizers on sugarcane crop and soil health.
- Developing economically feasible INM strategies for maximising sugarcane yield and sustaining soil health.
- Demonstrating the effectiveness and benefits of INM practices to farmers and extension personnel.
- Monitoring soil health by implementing soil health card system.
- Imparting training on INM practices to farmers and field extension personnel.

The INM practices in sugarcane farming will help to mitigate the climate change impact on sugarcane farming in Fiji island.

**Question:** Any suggestions on possibilities for developing a proposal concept to enable sugarcane farmers to mitigate emissions and/or sequester carbon in soil, resulting in the generation of carbon offsets as recognised by Article 6 - whereby activities focus more on current land management & harvesting and transportation and milling process?? Could include heat/gas flux modelling?

**Response:** The carbon sequestration and trading mechanisms under article 6 can be potentially explored in future or next phase from this work.

In addition to the questions that were raised, there were also feedbacks raised from the participants to the floor for consideration moving forward and these were noted and welcomed by the CCICD team in a constructive manner.

**Feedback:** Recommendation was put forward for a briefing following COP27 for the processing of information for those that are not regularly engaged in the climate change space but are linked.

**Feedback:** Ms. Kajal representing Aspire Network suggested to include resilient climate change cities, especially for our cities and town close to water ways the COP27 agenda. She added that there should also be acknowledgment of knowledge taken from communities in reports and documents. More opportunities should be provided to local consultants and push for more doctorate scholarships at COP27.

**Feedback:** Ms. Charlotte Turk, Regional lead from the GGGI – CFAN thanked CCICD for organising the event as this brings collective information and feedbacks. She added that all climate

finance must go through the government as a strategic approach which is based on consultations from all parties concerned and although, access to climate finance is difficult, Fiji needs to keep pushing.

**Feedback:** Ms. Latu Kaukilakeba from the Reserve Bank of Fiji, raised the question of how much passion there is across the floor regarding this whole issue. She thanked the participants and encouraged them to read the Climate Change Act and the vast information provided on the climate change portal to understand the issues and understand the impacts with the correct interpretation.

**Feedback:** Recommendation was put forward for the information sessions to be restructured in a manner that can allow for more engagement rather than just presentations resulting in reduced time slots for questions, feedbacks and messages for COP27.

**Feedback:** Mr. David, a private financial advisor highlighted the conversation around the private sector involvement. More finance flowing in means that the financial systems will not be able to release them on time hence Fiji will need more accredited agencies and the engagement of the private sector. Recommendation was made for ensuring the NDC investment plan is more prescriptive so that private financers can understand where they can fit in and engaging with SWG's more frequently is also suggested.

**Feedback:** Mr. Dwayne Qalovaki representing Kasabias Fiji Limited in contributing to the discussions on private sector engagement in Fiji highlighted a project Kasabias Limited is currently pursuing. The project is a carbon finance project which is focused on supplying 1 million cooking stoves around the Pacific. Given this initiative that the company is already pursuing, a private sector engagement strategy would be highly welcomed.

**Feedback:** A recommendation was made for capacity building at grass root level and for educational institutions to introduce climate change issues in the curriculum at both the primary and high school level.

**Feedback:** Two participants representing a youth organisation, in contributing to the discussions emphasized the significance of including the voice of young people as they form a core part of the solution.

**Feedback:** A recommendation was also voiced from the private sector emphasizing on the willingness and skills that already exists to have the private sector involved as part of the solution. However, the key asks and expectations from the private sector should be made clearer.

**Feedback:** From the minerals and mining sector, a comment was raised highlighting the non-inclusion of minerals as part of the climate change challenges and solutions. Emphasis was made on the importance of the minerals and mining sector as an integral part and for the consideration of its inclusion moving forward.

## 5. Annexes

### 5.1 Meeting agenda



#### SWG Open Membership – Meeting #1 – 12 October 2022

Grand Pacific Hotel - Matua Function Room

#### Open SWG Webinar on the upcoming Conference of Parties Agenda

SWG 1: Sustainable Livelihoods and Healthy Communities	9am -12pm
SWG 2: Ecosystems, Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Land Management	
SWG 3: Resilient Infrastructure, Sustainable Energy and Built Environment	
SWG 4: Sustainable Transport	

Time	Description	
15 minutes before meeting	Registration for those attending in person/ all online attendees to arrive online	
<b>Working Session</b>		
5 minutes	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Mr Kushaal Raj (Head of Climate Change)
5 minutes	<b>Opening Remarks</b>	Mr Jean Paul Penrose (Acting UK High Commissioner)
15 minutes	<b>Introduction on the Climate Change Division</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief introduction on the Climate Change Division (Adaptation, Mitigation, Ocean, Climate Finance, and International Cooperation)</li> <li>Climate Change Act</li> </ul>	Mr Kushaal Raj (Head of Climate Change)
20 mins	<b>Session 2. Introduction to the Green Climate Fund &amp; Sector Working Group</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Brief presentation on the background of the Green Climate Fund and Ministry of Economy</li> <li>National Designated Authority and Fiji Readiness Fund</li> <li>Establishment, objective, and function of the Sector Working Group</li> </ul>	Global Green Growth initiative
<b>Tea Break</b>		

<b>25 minutes</b>	<b>Session 3. Setting the stage COP26</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of the Conference of Parties (COP) - Video</li> <li>• Update on COP 26</li> <li>• Outcome</li> </ul> <i>Online Poll Question</i>	CCICD
<b>25 mins</b>	<b>Session 4. Upcoming COP27</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Overview of key agenda followed for COP27</li> </ul> <i>Online Poll Question</i>	CCICD
<b>35 mins</b>	<b>Session 5. Feedback</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Open for comments and feedback (Physical/ Virtual participates)</li> </ul>	CCICD
<b>1 Hour</b>	<b>Session 5. End of Session</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lunch and networking</li> </ul>	Open
<b>3 hours</b>	<b>End of session</b>	

## 5.2 Terms of Reference for Open SWG Membership

*This Final Terms of Reference was developed by the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Economy based on the initial Climate Finance Sector Working Groups (SWG) held between 3-12 November 2020 and feedback via e-mail by the Open SWG members in March 2021.*

**Final Terms of Reference  
For the Open Membership of the CCICD  
Climate Finance Sector Working Groups**

### Background

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Climate Change and International Cooperation Division (CCICD) is seeking to strengthen its stakeholder engagement and partnerships as part of its work to support the securing of sufficient climate finance, through public and private investments, to meet Fiji's climate change objectives.
- 1.2 This includes ensuring that proposal development is underpinned by consultative processes that are open, equitable, transparent and inclusive.
- 1.3 Accessing climate finance can be complex and time intensive and strong stakeholder engagement through broad, multi-stakeholder<sup>2</sup> Sector Working Groups (SWG) will support national stakeholders with an interest in climate finance to engage in a structured way with the Fijian Government. These groups will provide a clear process through which stakeholders can stay engaged with Government processes, assist to strengthen these processes, build their knowledge and capacities and identify and develop partnerships with a variety of stakeholders.

#### 2. Composition of the Four SWGs

- 2.1 Based on the eight (8) Green Climate Fund Thematic Areas, four (4) consolidated cross cutting Sector Working Groups are established that address both adaptation and mitigation<sup>3</sup>:
  - SWG 1: Sustainable Livelihoods and Healthy Communities (Access to food, water and health security)
  - SWG 2: Ecosystems and Ecosystem Services and Sustainable Natural Resources Management
  - SWG 3: Climate Resilient Infrastructure, Sustainable Energy and Built Environment
  - SWG 4: Sustainable Transport
- 2.2 CCICD as the National Designated Authority (NDA) for the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and focal point on climate finance more broadly, invited sector specialists (public, private, NGO and CSO and academia stakeholders) to attend initial sector working groups between 3-12 November. Over 160 registered and 76 attended the four sector working groups meetings.

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<sup>2</sup> Broad, multi-stakeholder here means that stakeholders are drawn from government, private sector, NGOS, CSOs and academia, as well as comprising a balance of men and women, youth and vulnerable groups.

<sup>3</sup> The overlap in these sectors will be accommodated whenever needed with cross-sectoral engagement between groups

2.3 A subsequent call for Expressions of Interest to join the sector working groups as Open or Consultative members was made and received 110 responses. Based on the EOI and the need to ensure a balanced and inclusive representation additional organisations were invited to join the SWG by the NDA.

### **3. Membership of the Sector Working Groups**

3.1 Two types of membership have been established:

3.1.1. **General Open Membership.** Members are included in a general community of practice. Members will be notified of and can participate in events, seminars, public consultations, training, outreach, surveys and other activities. A regular newsletter will keep members informed and updated on activities, including of the consultative group.

3.1.2. **Consultative Members.** This specific group of members will be invited by the NDA to provide advice, feedback and recommendations in the development and appraisal of NDA policies and procedures and GCF concept notes and funding proposals. These members will be selected as a manageable lean group of experts (up to 12 sector experts per SWG) with a balance of public, private, NGO and CSO stakeholders and research institutions<sup>4</sup>. For nominated members, there must be no conflict of interest in assessing project concept notes / proposals and members will be asked to declare any interest in a given project and remove themselves from any assessment or review if necessary.

#### **Terms of Reference – Open Members**

### **4. Objectives of the Climate Finance Sector Working Groups**

4.1 Sector working groups will support a more coherent approach to the design, financing, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of climate finance projects and investments that address Fiji's climate change goals.

4.2 The main objectives for Open Members of the sector working groups are to:

- i. Ensure open and transparent communication, information and knowledge exchange between stakeholders with an interest in climate finance including project proponents, developers, the Direct Access Entities (e.g., Fiji Development Bank and Ministry of Economy), International Accredited Entities (IAEs), internal governmental and external non-governmental stakeholders as a Community of Practice.
- ii. Share and be guided by information on national climate change policies, planning and strategies to support alignment of all climate change related projects and initiatives to Government priorities<sup>5</sup>.
- iii. Support the development of projects aligned to these priorities and support all stakeholders in Fiji to strengthen their capacity to access both international and domestic climate finance, building on good practices from within Fiji, the Pacific region and globally.
- iv. Identify and disseminate information on capacity building initiatives that will address barriers in policy and project implementation.

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<sup>4</sup> The criteria used to select the consultative members were 1) Balance of civil society organisations / government / private sector / academic or researcher; 2) Representative of an organisation / industry groups rather than individuals or individual companies; 3) Gender balance; 4) Youth representation; 5) Sufficient climate finance project or investment experience / expertise to contribute and 6) Desirable to be based in Fiji to attend in person meetings

<sup>5</sup> National climate change priorities can be found in national and sectoral policies such as the National Adaptation Plan, the Low Emission Development Strategy, etc.

- v. Facilitate the exchange of information and ideas on climate change and climate finance best practice, programmes and projects, lessons learned, public policies and plans e.g., through the NDA portal.
- vi. Share and co-create knowledge among stakeholders, with a particular focus on successful climate change technologies and innovations, best practices and case studies on adaptation and mitigation solutions.
- vii. Identify opportunities and gaps to access and utilise climate finance to scale up and/or replicate adaptation and mitigation solutions in Fiji.

## **5. Guiding principles for sector working groups**

- 5.1 The following core guidelines will apply during Sector Working Group meetings:
  - i. Be open, respectful, and appreciative to the ideas of other members and participants.
  - ii. Work toward resolution of matters in a constructive, professional, and timely manner.
  - iii. Acknowledge diverse views and include in meeting summaries.
  - iv. Promote transparency, inclusivity, collaboration and mutual accountability.
- 5.2 Specifically, the following guiding principles will apply to Open Members of the Sector Working Groups:

### **5.2.1. Multi-stakeholder, multi-sectoral and participatory**

- i. The Open Members of Sector Working Groups will promote a whole-of-government and whole-of-society consultative process that is open, transparent, equitable and inclusive to generate strong buy-in, country ownership and success in mobilising climate finance in Fiji.
- ii. The Open Members will provide a link between the NDA (CCICD), the MoE, line ministries and all relevant stakeholders, intended to break down any 'siloed' approaches and barriers. Information will be made available through meetings, seminars, workshops and on an online NDA coordination portal.
- iii. The Open Members will promote the culture of sharing responsibilities as well as mutual accountabilities by all the stakeholders in the climate finance process, including the development of project concept notes and project proposal pipeline, based on their well-defined roles and responsibilities.

### **5.2.2. Proactive and ongoing**

- iv. The Open Members will take a proactive approach to identifying suitable partnerships and opportunities that can reduce duplication of efforts, overlaps and promote coherence in the operation, monitoring and evaluation of the climate finance process. National stakeholders will take the lead and manage the climate finance process to ensure alignment with national development and climate aspirations, priorities and needs.
- v. An ongoing and iterative process including continuous updates and regular assessment of progress is promoted rather than one-off events.

### **5.2.3. Promote gender and social inclusion in the climate change and finance sector**

- vi. Gender equity and social inclusion (GESI) including youth will be mainstreamed into the composition, decision making mechanism and operation of the Sector Working Groups. Stakeholders will be supported to understand and promote social and environment safeguards throughout the process that will be guided by the MoE's GESI policy.

## **6. Meetings**

- i. Based on responses received through an Expression of Interest process, Open members of the SWGs will meet a minimum of twice a year.

## **7. Quorum**

- 7.1 No quorum for the meetings of the Open Members of the SWG is needed.
- 7.2 Additional meetings of the Open Members of the SWGs may be convened as required. Joint meetings, with the wider Consultative Membership, may also be convened where topics are of relevance to all SWG members.
- 7.3 Meetings will be supported with agendas and briefing papers to be prepared by CCICD in its capacity as the SWG Secretariat and co-chair of the SWGs. Background papers will be circulated at least 3 days ahead of the meeting date. This will be supported by other SWG members as required.

## **8. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 8.1 CCICD will provide the Secretariat for the SWGs and will be responsible for the following:
  - i. Organising a calendar of meetings based on agreed priorities by the SWGs
  - ii. Proposing topics and preparing background material to support meetings
  - iii. Uploading all relevant material to the NDA / Climate Change Portal to support the SWG
  - iv. Taking notes during meetings and circulating minutes of meeting to members
  - v. Maintaining an up-to-date database of SWG members
  - vi. Maintaining a list of frequently asked questions that arise during SWG meetings
  - vii. Responding to SWG member requests as required
- 8.2 The Open Membership Group will be co-chaired by the Director/Head of CCICD and a non-government representative that is present during the meeting. They will be responsible for:
  - i. Guiding the discussion during each SWG
  - ii. Facilitating agreement of key decision points and actions during meetings
- 8.3 Open Members of each Sector Working Group will include representation across the following stakeholders and EOIs will be made periodically for additional persons or organisations wishing to join the Open membership:
  - i. Government ministries, agencies and departments
  - ii. Non-governmental organisations and civil society organisations
  - iii. Private sector
  - iv. Academic institutions and researchers
  - v. Regional and international development partners

Open Members will be responsible for:

- i. Actively contributing to the discussions and sharing information of relevance
- ii. Providing feedback and comments to the NDA (CCICD)

## **5.3 Consolidated presentation slides**

All the presentation slides from the Open SWG meeting have been consolidated into one presentation and can be accessed at the following link:

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1Erin0Pw1r59dq9Uz0bsSgE6npizPYGM7/view?usp=sharing>

## 5.4 Recording of Open SWG meeting

A full recording of the Open SWG meeting can be viewed at the following link:

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/JMyQts4KdvwhW8k31UtLLM1STzjmJRUW0M\\_8ANPGYdJtQxFPxV5Gv85GjspNqqK.rtbybYbj6m3WrxIW](https://zoom.us/rec/share/JMyQts4KdvwhW8k31UtLLM1STzjmJRUW0M_8ANPGYdJtQxFPxV5Gv85GjspNqqK.rtbybYbj6m3WrxIW)

Passcode: S=eDz0W7

## 5.5 Meeting Registrants

No.	Participants Name	Gender	Organisation
1	See full list here - <a href="https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PWN-S9j_QJzWXRWaOvBE36DViOgSxQETS85vSXfxPI4/edit?usp=sharing">https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1PWN-S9j_QJzWXRWaOvBE36DViOgSxQETS85vSXfxPI4/edit?usp=sharing</a>		

## 5.6 Glossary of key terms<sup>6</sup> - Updated May 2021

**Accreditation:** A process under which entities have to demonstrate that they have the ability to manage the GCF's resources in accordance with standards and criteria set out by the GCF in the accreditation application.

**Accredited Entities:** An institution accredited by the GCF Board to access funding from the GCF, these institutions will go through a process of accreditation, designed to assess whether they are capable of strong financial management and of safeguarding funded projects and programmes against any unforeseen environmental or social harm. An accredited entity could be a national or regional or multilateral institution. It can be government, non-governmental and private.

**Adaptation:** Adjustments to ecological, social and economic systems in such a manner as to build resilience of human communities and natural ecosystems so as to moderate or minimise potential damage or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.

**Adaptation Planning:** The identification of adaptation priorities and development of strategies and programmes to address these priorities in a continuous, dynamic and iterative process. The GCF support for adaptation planning processes may have a national, sub-national and/or sectoral focus, and could contribute to an integrated national vision for climate resilience.

**Climate Change:** A change in an average weather condition in addition to natural climate variability observed over a comparable period, generally of 30 years, which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activities that alters the composition of the global atmosphere.

**Climate Finance:** Refers to the flow of funds from developed countries to developing countries in the area of climate change. It includes accessing, absorbing and managing funds for climate change adaptation and mitigation work through various means – multilateral, bilateral, private sector, non- government organisations loan, grant and co-finance.

**Country Programme:** A GCF Country Programme is a living document that presents a country's climate change priorities with the GCF, including a pipeline of projects that the country would like to develop with the Fund. It provides an action plan that details how projects and programmes are

<sup>6</sup> Partly extracted from the guidelines for NDAs or focal points available at Annex XIII of GCF/B.08/45.

to be developed, the type of entity to partner with, and the readiness and project preparation support needs required.

**Delivery Partners:** Institutions selected by the National Designated Authority (NDA) or focal point to implement activities approved under the Readiness and Preparatory Support Programme. Delivery partners provide services such as: development of readiness request proposals; implementation and supervision; fiduciary management; progress reporting; and project completion and evaluation. Delivery partners may be AEs or other institutions assessed to meet the financial management capacities requirements of the Fund.

**Direct Access:** Accessing the GCF's resources through national or regional accredited entities directly without intermediaries, such as bilateral and multilateral, to implement projects/programmes.

**Direct Access Entities:** Institutions that apply for accreditation through direct access modality. They are regional, national and sub-national institutions that are required to provide evidence of a nomination from a NDA or focal point with their application documents. Entities that are accredited under the direct access modality, or wish to be accredited, may be eligible to receive support under the Readiness Programme at the request of its NDA or focal point.

**Executive Entities:** Institutions (public, private and NGO partners) with a proven track record that will receive the funding to implement and monitor the project or programme.

**Expression of Interest:** A letter issued by the National Designated Authority to an accredited entity towards preparation of concept note for the GCF (An option that could be adopted by NDA).

**Environmental and Social Safeguards:** A set of criteria that aims to address key environmental and social risks in the implementation of activities to be funded by the GCF. The Fund has adopted interim ESS while it develops a comprehensive environmental and social management system (ESMS). Measures undertaken to prevent and mitigate possible undue harm of the GCF funded projects/programmes to people and the environment.

**Executing Entity:** An institution responsible for the execution of projects/programmes funded by the GCF.

**Environmental and Social Assessments** refers to the assessment of environmental and social risks, impacts and opportunities undertaken by the accredited entities in a manner that follows good international industry practices, identifies best alternatives and allows for an integrated and balanced view of the environmental and social risks and impacts pursuant to the GCF ESS standards and requirements of the accredited entities

**Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA)** refers to a process or tool based on an integrated assessment where the scale and type of potential biophysical and social, including, where appropriate transboundary risks and impacts of projects, programs and/or policy initiatives, are predicted, acknowledged and evaluated. It also involves evaluating alternatives and designing appropriate mitigation, management and monitoring measures to manage the predicted potential impacts.

**Environmental and Social Management System (ESMS)** refers to a set of management processes and procedures that allow an organisation to identify, analyse, control and reduce the

environmental and social impacts of its activities including transboundary risks and impacts, in a consistent way and to improve performance in this regard over time. For the purposes of this document, “ESMS” refers to the environmental and social management system of GCF. When used in the long form, “environmental and social management system”, it refers to the entities’ management system.

**Fiduciary Standards:** Refers to the basic and specialised fiduciary requirements of the GCF that accredited entities and readiness partners need to comply with depending on the nature of the activities funded by the GCF. The Fund’s initial fiduciary standards are set out in Annex II of GCF/B.07/11.

**Fit-for-Purpose Accreditation Approach:** An accreditation approach that recognises the role of a wide range of entities, which differ in the scope and nature of their activities, as well as their capacities, in advancing the objectives of the GCF. It accommodates this diversity by matching the nature, scale, and risk of intended activities to the application of the fiduciary standards and ESS.

**Funding Proposal:** A proposal developed by accredited entities to access and manage GCF funds to undertake projects/programmes

**Gender Policy:** The Fund’s Gender policy aims to ensure the GCF will efficiently contribute to gender equality and will, in turn, achieve greater and more sustainable climate change results. The gender policy is applied to all the Fund’s activities, whether implemented by international, regional, national or subnational, public or private entities or institutions that access GF’s resources.

**Green Climate Fund:** A financial mechanism of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change established to help developing countries in achieving a paradigm shift to low-carbon pathways and increased climate resilient development. It supports projects, programmes, policies and other activities in the developing country parties to the UNFCCC.

**GESI Mainstreaming:** is the process of assessing the implications for women, men, children, the elderly, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups of any planned action, including legislation, policies or programmes, in all areas and at all levels. It is a strategy for making gender and equity experiences and concerns an integral dimension of the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and societal spheres so everyone benefits equally and inequality is not perpetuated.

**GESI Sensitivity** refers to understanding and taking account of the societal and cultural factors involved in gender discrimination and social exclusion in all spheres of public and private life. GESI sensitivity implies a consideration of the potential contribution of all genders and peoples to societal changes as well as the methods and tools used to: promote equity, reduce disparities and exclusion, and measure the impact of climate change and other development activities on beneficiaries and society as a whole.

**Gender Equality** refers to equal rights, power, responsibilities and opportunities for all genders, as well as equal consideration of the interests, needs and priorities of all genders with respect to their treatment, opportunities, and economic achievements in the workplace.

**Gender Equity** refers to the provision of fairness and justice in the distribution of benefits and responsibilities of all genders. To ensure equity, measures often need to be taken to compensate

for (or reduce) disparity for historical and social disadvantages that prevent all genders from otherwise operating on an equitable basis.

**Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP)** outlines the actions to minimise and/or compensate for the adverse impacts and identify opportunities and actions to enhance the positive impacts of a project for indigenous People.

**Involuntary Resettlement** means physical displacement (relocation, LoSs of residential land or LoSs of shelter), economic displacement (LoSs of land, assets or access to assets, including those that lead to LoSs of income sources or other means of livelihood), or both, caused by project-related land acquisition or restrictions on land use.

**Investment Criteria:** A set of criteria adopted by the GCF to assess the funding proposals submitted by accredited implementing entities.

**Mitigation:** Efforts to reduce or prevent the emission of greenhouse gases.

**International Accredited Entity:** Accredited entities with the GCF that are expected to mobilise and manage the GCF finance at a global level such as the UN Agencies, Multilateral Development Banks and other international organisations.

**Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Action:** UNFCCC established the nationally appropriate mitigation action (NAMA) process to facilitate mitigation planning in least developed countries (LDCs) and other developing countries.

**National Adaptation Plan (NAP):** The UNFCCC established the national adaptation plan (NAP) process to facilitate adaptation planning in least developed countries (LDCs) and other developing countries.

**National Designated Authorities or focal points:** NDAs are government institutions that serve as the interface between each country and the Fund. They provide broad strategic oversight of the GCF's activities in the country and communicate the country's priorities for financing low-emission and climate-resilient development.

**Nationally Determined Contributions:** NDCs are the primary means for governments to communicate internationally the steps they will take to address climate change in their own countries. NDCs reflect each country's ambition to reduce emissions, taking into account its domestic circumstances and capabilities. Some countries also address how they'll adapt to climate change impacts, and what support they need from, or will provide to, other countries to adopt low-carbon pathways and to build climate resilience.

**Nomination Letter:** A letter given by the National Designated Authorities or focal point to aspirant entities seeking the GCF accreditation. Entities applying for accreditation need to submit such a nomination letter as a part of their application for accreditation.

**No Objection Letter:** A letter issued from a National Designated Authority or focal point confirming that it has no objection to a funding proposal submitted on behalf of its country by an accredited entity.

**Paris Agreement:** Paris Agreement is an international agreement agreed at the 21st Session of the Conference of Parties (COP21) of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in November 2015 in Paris, France. It aims to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by keeping a global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial level in this century and to pursue efforts to limit the temperature increase even further to 1.5 degree Celsius. The Paris Agreement came into effect on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Cambodia has signed and ratified this Agreement on 22 April 2016

**United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC):** A framework for international cooperation to combat climate change negotiated at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro in June 1992 and enforced in March 1994.

## 5.7 Frequently asked questions

**Q:** Who will approve the proposal? Does the SWG approve or only provide advice and recommendations on the proposal?

A: The SWG will only provide technical advice and recommendations to improve the concept note and funding proposal. Approval of a proposal can only be done by GCF with endorsement from the NDA through the issuance of a NOL.

**Q:** What will be the monitoring of how advice from the SWGs is considered by the NDA?

A: There will be a record kept of communication to and from the SWG and NDA. NDA will acknowledge and respond to SWG advice.

**Q:** Is there a need for agreement on advice from the SWG?

A: There is no need for agreement, all opinions/voices need to be heard so differences in views can be noted in the SWG advice/notes/recommendations back to the NDA. So, there is no need for a vote or agreement on things.

**Q:** Will the SWG consultative meetings always be conducted in joint sessions with the other SWGs or will there be sector specific consultative meetings in the future?

A: It depends on the nature of the topic. For projects that are cross-cutting, members of the relevant SWGs will be invited to a joint meeting to assess CN and FP.

**Q:** Do we need to sign a confidentiality declaration form every time there's an appraisal session?

A: Yes, as the documentation shared will be specific each time and a specific confidentiality agreement will be needed, with details of the date, topic, documents shared and purpose of the appraisal session.

**Q:** What is the difference between a climate change project and a purely development project?

A: This is a difficult question which has caused much debate, controversy and even confrontation within the development community and GCF (even at GCF Board Meetings!). Many people feel that the size of countries like Fiji and the proven vulnerability of SIDS to climate change, creates a situation where every development project is a climate change project and vice versa. However, GCF requires that every project must demonstrate how it is making a difference to climate change mitigation and/or adaptation. For mitigation, it is relatively easier to show the difference – if the

project is making a significant reduction in CO2 emissions (relative to the country's overall emissions) then it is clearly a climate change project. For adaptation, the distinction is harder to make. A project must show that it is addressing a climate change impact that is clearly documented and proven to be happening. So a question to ask is – is the problem due to climate change, or are there other underlying causes also creating this problem (which the project aims to solve). If there are other causes, which is the dominant one? Is it climate change? Then the project is a climate change project. If climate change is not the dominant cause of the problem but is contributing, then is GCF funding being requested to respond to all the different underlying causes, or to address specifically the solution for the climate change part of the impact? Perhaps with other financing co-financing addressing non-climate change issues. The project could still seek funding from GCF, but not for all of its activities. If the problem is predominately caused by non-climate related issues, the GCF is unlikely to be the right funding mechanism to seek finance.

**Q:** Are the accredited entities aware of the new structure in terms of LoS/NOL pathway if they're putting in a proposal?

A: Yes, to some degree they are aware of the new changes to the LoS/NOL process, but the plan is to present the revised procedures at the open SWG meetings and create more awareness around it.

**Q:** Will the SWGs also be appraising concept notes from other Pacific Island Countries?

A: No, the 4 SWGs will only be appraising concept notes from Fiji.