Briefing Note

The National Adaptation Plan

© Copyright 2021. Ministry of Economy, Republic of Fiji.

1. Background – The Climate Change Policy and the National Adaptation Plan

Fiji's National Climate Change Policy 2018-2030 (NCCP) describes the guiding vision, principles, institutional arrangements, approaches, and objectives for tackling climate change issues in Fiji. The NCCP is Fiji's first articulation on its national climate change policy since the Paris Agreement and serves as an anchor for Fiji's Nationally Determined Contribution and long-term climate-resilient development pathway, while also establishing responsibilities and systems for national reporting to the UNFCCC.

The NCCP complements the objectives set out under Fiji's 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP) and provides strategies intended to help protect progress against these objectives from the detrimental impacts of climate change. In order to support the objectives of the NDP and Fiji's ability to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, the NCCP defines and articulates a 'woven approach to resilient development'. The NCCP's 'woven approach' is premised on a set of policies and objectives designed to better exploit synergies that exist between socio-economic development and risk management-focused agendas and priorities. The NCCP seeks to improve capacity to exploit these development co-benefits and reduce trade-offs through increased investment in evidence-based decision making and greater intra-government, private-sector, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

To support Fiji's adaptation priorities, the NCCP sets out 5 high-level objectives that set the premise, mandate, and cross-sectoral intent for all current and future iterations of the National Adaptation Plan.

Objective 3.1: To integrate the consideration of climate change projections, articulation of risk reduction responsibilities, and formulation of resilience-building objectives across all sector plans and strategies.

Objective 3.2: To increase ecosystem protection, natural resource redundancy, and environmental resilience through nature-based solutions.

Objective 3.3: To secure equal and sustainable access to the produce, products, resources, and services that support human health and wellbeing.

Objective 3.4: To implement climate change adaptation solutions which are inclusive, equitable, and locally-driven.

Objective 3.5: To integrate climate adaptation and disaster risk management priorities.

2. Why a National Adaptation Plan?

Fiji is susceptible to extreme events, particularly cyclones, floods and droughts. Climate change will exacerbate the country's vulnerability to these events. Slower changes, such as sea-level rise and ocean acidification, will also have dramatic impacts. The location of Fiji's key assets and infrastructure along the coast and its high economic dependency on climate sensitive sectors such as tourism and agriculture, further contributes to this vulnerability. This poses major challenges to Fiji's ability to achieve its national development objectives and the Sustainable Development Goals and to the wellbeing of Fiji's people and society as a whole.

Fiji's first National Adaptation Plan (NAP)[1], which outlines priorities to address these challenges and adapt to climate change, was launched in 2018. The NAP is an overarching plan for addressing national adaptation needs. It provides public, private and civil society stakeholders and development partners a list of prioritised adaptation needs across various sectors. This ensures that adaptation actions and resources address the most pressing vulnerabilities and needs.

All adaptation projects seeking national and development and climate finance must align to the priorities outlined in the National Adaptation Plan.

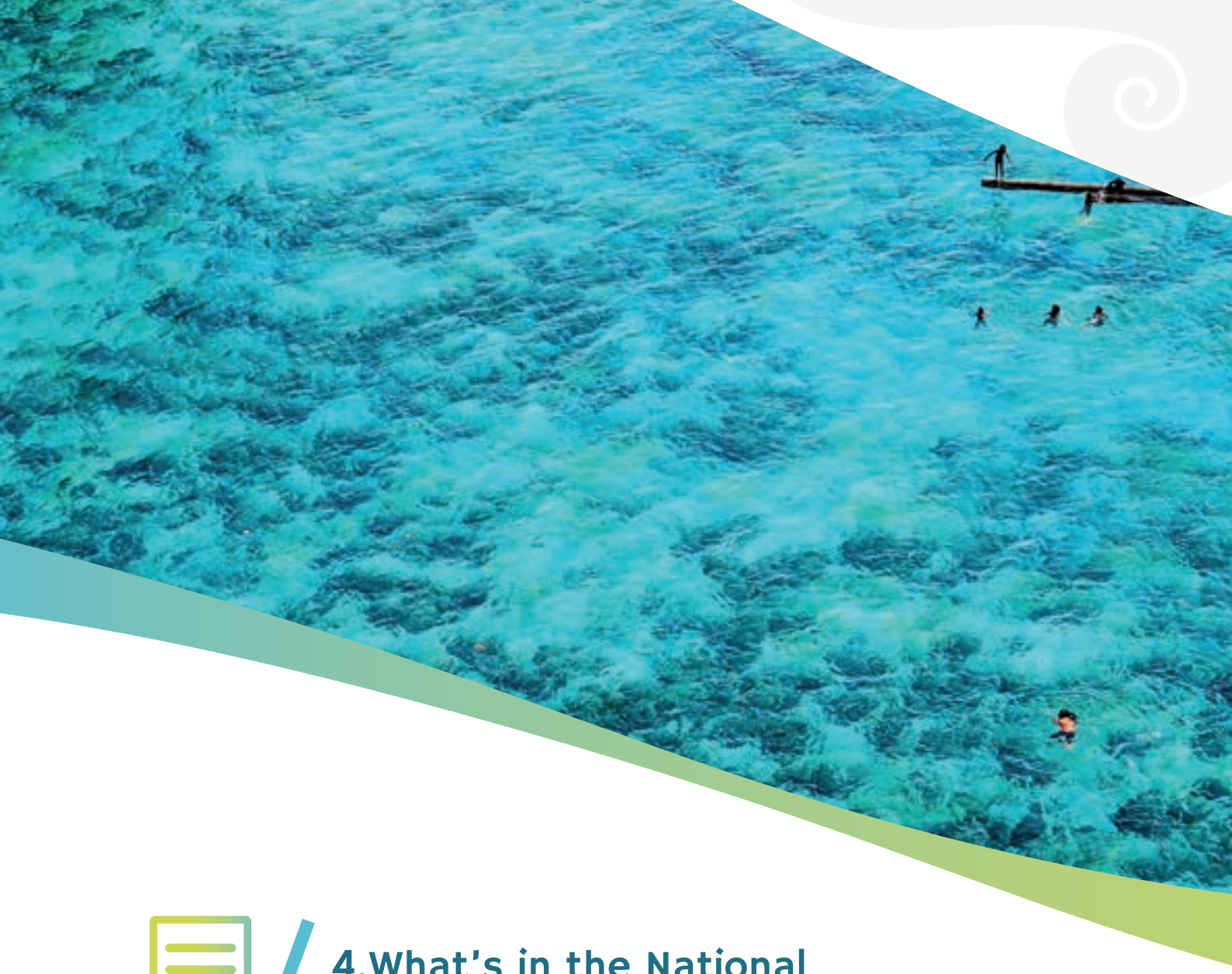
Fiji's NAP seeks to build adaptive capacity and resilience, and integrate climate change adaptation, into policies, programmes, and processes across all prioritised sectors. The aim of Fiji's NAP is to facilitate institutional coordination for adaptation actions, accelerate resource mobilisation for adaptation, and deliver effective and sustainable adaptation options for all Fijians.

3. How was the National Adaptation Plan developed?

NAP builds upon the existing policies and plans and it serves as a major vehicle for the implementation of the Fijian Government's commitments to international processes. A review of all relevant national policies/plans identified all existing adaptation actions in Fiji to ensure the NAP process did not duplicate the outcomes of these policies. Stakeholders from different sectors ensured that prioritised adaptation actions accurately reflected sector needs. An inter-ministerial NAP Steering Committee- comprised of high level government representatives- was created to support the formulation, coordination, implementation, and monitoring of the NAP process.

---

[1] *The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) established the NAP process to guide countries in identifying adaptation needs and developing and implementing strategies and programmes to address those needs.*



4.What's in the National Adaptation Plan?

The NAP contains 160 prioritised adaptation measures across five broad sectoral and five systems to be implemented over the five-year period of the NAP (2018-2023) and represent the most urgent actions identified during consultations. In addition to building climate resilience, these prioritized actions also have additional benefits in terms of development outcomes.

The 160 prioritised actions in Fiji's NAP are split between two focal areas, namely: i) systems components and ii) sectoral components.

I. Systemic Adaptation:

These actions support the creation of an enabling environment for climate-resilient development and to overcome the current barriers to scale up climate adaptation priorities.

This includes strengthening **climate information services and management,** mainstreaming climate change issues into national development planning processes **(horizontal integration)**, mainstreaming environmental and climate risk into sub-national development planning processes **(vertical integration)**, strengthening **climate change awareness and knowledge**, and **mobilising resources** (financial and non-financial) to address the adaptation priorities.

Systematic Component	Description	No# of Adaptation Needs Identified
A. Climate Information Services and management	This component specifically addresses the capacity to generate, manage, disseminate, and use climate change information. This component of the NAP is of importance because the need to develop the capacity to collect, manage, and generate climate knowledge is relevant to all other system and sectoral adaptations covered within the NAP.	10
B. Horizontal Integration	Horizontal integration refers to the mainstreaming of climate change issues into national-level development planning processes so that they are suitably climate-informed. Horizontal integration will support the Government of Fiji to tackle systemic issues contributing towards national vulnerability and support efforts to tackle current and future climate impacts.	11
C. Vertical Integration	Vertical integration refers to the integration of environmental and climate risk into sub-national development planning processes. Vertical and horizontal integration are inextricably linked and is one of the most important aims of the NAP Process	10
D. Climate Change Awareness and Knowledge	This systemic adaptation is important because a clear understanding of climate change issues is a fundamental component of adaptive capacity. Raising climate change awareness and knowledge involves more than disseminating information about current and projected impacts. It extends to ensuring adaptation stakeholders have awareness, skills, and knowledge of how to address climate risks and share lessons learnt.	11
E. Resource Mobilization	Resource mobilisation in Fiji's NAP refers to the accumulation and coordination of resources during the design, implementation, and monitoring of adaptation measures as well as any associated required capacity building. It also refers to how resources are channelled to where they are required. The term 'resources' in this context refers to both financial and non-financial resources.	13

II. Sectoral Adaptation:

These actions prioritise adaptation within different sectors of society and the economy that are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. They include adaptation actions to strengthen **food and nutrition security** by enhancing the resilience of the food production system, adapt **health** systems to manage climate change impacts, address the adaptation needs of **human settlements**, including cities, towns, and rural communities, develop climate-resilient **infrastructure** which considers environmental and climate risks over the short, medium, and long terms and protect **biodiversity and the natural environment** from climate-related threats. A list of prioritised adaptation measures under the systemic and sectoral adaptation areas will be presented in a companion Sectoral Policy Brief.

Sectoral Component	Description	No# of Adaptation Needs Identified
A. Food and Nutrition Security	This component of sectoral adaptation ensures food and nutrition security by enhancing the resilience of the food production system. This section also recognises that food and nutrition security is not only about the production of food but also about the availability, accessibility, utilisation and stability of food production and distribution.	23
B. Health	Fiji is among the most vulnerable countries to the health impacts of climate change. This vulnerability is due to its geographic and socioeconomic characteristics combined with exposure to changing weather patterns and its limited capacity to manage and adapt to the health risks it entails. Ensuring the health of any population is of great importance. Therefore, this section specifically addresses the negative impacts of climate change poses on human health.	10
C. Human Settlements	The NAP, under this component, addresses the adaptation needs of localities and populated places in which people live. This includes cities, towns, and rural communities.	12

Sectoral Component	Description	No# of Adaptation Needs Identified
D. Infrastructure	It is essential for Fiji to develop climate-resilient infrastructure which considers environmental and climate risks over the short, medium, and long terms. This component specifically addresses infrastructure for transport, water and sanitation, energy and hazard management. How infrastructure is developed has indirect impacts on all other sectors identified as an adaptation priority.	44
E. Biodiversity and the Natural Environment	This component explores the role of biodiversity and the natural environment in providing essential ecosystem goods and services and therefore the need to protect it from climate and non- climate related threats.	16

5.Principles and values

The NAP is guided by key principles including participation, pro-poor, robust decision making and identifying low regret options.

The following key values underpin the NAP:

i. Participation and inclusivity of all stakeholders and interests to co-develop bottom up and demand driven adaptation solutions to avoid top down and supply push solutions.

ii. Promotion of 'ecosystem-based' and 'gender and human rights-based' approaches to adaptation.

iii. Promotion of outcomes equitably benefiting low-income and otherwise disadvantaged groups.

iv. Promotion of both scientific and traditional knowledge.

Engaging and leveraging private sector resources to scale up adaptation priorities.

6.Communicating and monitoring the NAP

Subsequent to the NAP development, the ***NAP Communication Strategy*** was developed to provide direction and guidance for the government in engaging key stakeholders—including government staff, civil society organisations, private sector representatives and development partners — all of whom are instrumental in driving the implementation of the NAP.

The ***NAP Monitoring and Evaluation Framework*** provides guidance to the Climate Change and International Cooperation Division (CCICD) of Fiji's Ministry of Economy (MoE) to comprehensively monitor and evaluate the NAP and to encourage government entities and other stakeholders to support its operationalisation and updating as a 'living' document based on lessons learned.

7. How should the National Adaptation Plan be used?

Despite the ambitious commitment by the Fijian Government to allocate increasing higher proportion of the national budget to invest in climate adaptation and mitigation solutions to 'climate proof' the development efforts, the ability to sustain such climate allocation will remain a challenge, given the huge development burdens of the country, now being exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in significant economic contraction. Access to 'additional' and alternative climate finance resources (bilateral, regional or multilateral and private sector resources) is urgently needed to enable the shifting of the paradigm to transform development and climate change challenges into tangible investments to scale up climate adaptation and mitigation solutions to achieve the national development goals and climate goals. It is none more critical than now to develop resilient economy and communities who are empowered with the absorptive, adaptive and transformative capacities to overcome the twin challenges of climate risks and Covid-19 pandemic. However, the ability to access climate finance to develop a low carbon and resilient economy and communities are often hindered by:

- Limited understanding about the climate finance landscape and funding opportunities.
- Bureaucratic and complex access modalities of international climate funding sources.
- Lack of high-quality and transformative climate change project proposals to meet stringent requirements of the funders and donors.
- Limited strategic approach and no climate change project pipelines.
- Inefficient coordination and "silo and disjointed" approach of key stakeholders around international climate finance.
- High institutional memory loss caused by staff rotation.
- Limited capacity to overcome the barriers (policy, legal, regulatory, institutional, fiduciary, technical, financial, business and social) to scale up climate solutions.
- national tagging and tracking system of climate finance.

Access to climate finance: CCICD at the MoE is cognisant of the above challenges and the potential of climate finance mobilization. It has been proactively engaging with a wider group of stakeholders to explore additional sources of external resource mobilization for climate change. The NAP and the other national and sectoral development and climate policies will guide CCICD and their partners to design and develop pipeline of highly prioritized and bankable funding proposals to access climate finance to scale up demand led and proven climate adaptation solutions that can benefit all citizens in Fiji.

This safeguards strong country ownership, buy in and ensures the needs of the recipients are met. Furthermore, this also offers a very timely opportunity for Fiji to respond by greening up the Covid-19 recovery plans and packages.

For example, an adaptation need prioritised in Fiji is the development and implementation of a watershed management plan in Labasa. Fiji's Department of Waterways was able to secure funding through the European Union and the Pacific Community to focus on addressing this need through the development of the Soasoa Watershed Management Plan.

The NAP provides all stakeholders with a list of prioritised adaptation measures across various sectors. This ensures that adaptation interventions which are implemented by the public and private sectors and any resources allocated for such activities, are demand driven to address an existing challenge.

Another example is the GCF funded Fiji Urban Water Supply and Wastewater Management Project. This project addresses a prioritized adaptation need identified in the NAP, NDP and also Fiji's Climate Vulnerability Assessment through improving access to safe water and sewage services by improving infrastructure to increase water production and wastewater treatment in the greater Suva area.

Other examples of potential adaptation and cross cutting interventions[2] are presented in Table 1 below. A full list of adaptation and cross cutting measures are presented in detail in the NAP report and the companion Adaptation Sector Briefing Note.

A copy of the Fiji's National Adaptation Plan can be accessed online via the link:

https://www4.unfccc.int/sites/NAPC/Documents/Parties/National%20Adaptation%20Plan_Fiji.pdf

[2]The Climate Change and International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Economy is developing the Fiji Climate Finance Programme and has conducted an online survey to prioritise adaptation and mitigation interventions and projects based on the flagship policies e.g. NDC Implementation Plan, NAP and LEDS. The results of this survey are also reflected in Table 1.

Table 1: Examples of adaptation and cross cutting interventions proposed in the NAP.
A full list is available in the NAP report and the companion Adaptation Sector Briefing Note Report.

	Adaptation Sector Expert	
GCF Thematic areas	**1.Livelihoods of people and communities**	**2. Health, food and water security**
National Adaptation Plan	**Section 12: Food and Nutrition Security: 1 2.A Agriculture** 12.A.9 Strengthening the resilience of farmers and farming families by encouraging the diversification of agricultural produce for subsistence consumption and market sales (especially in the sugarcane belt, coastal and interior areas and marginal land), promote the (traditional) use of food preservation, processing and storage practices, seed banks, advance inclusive market information and dissemination systems, improve financial literacy and inclusive access to financial services, collaborate with the private sector to develop low-cost and locally produced feed supplements, encourage agro-business schemes and investment into value addition and commercial agriculture ventures. **Potential projects (2019-2022):** - Develop and implement a consolidated framework for Climate Change Resilient Agriculture - Establish one new partnership using Climate Risk Financing for targeted initiatives - 2 diagnostic labs for disease sampling and diagnostics operating in the Western and Northern divisions - 5,000 stakeholders with access to relevant e-agriculture platforms for farmers **Section 11: Resource Mobilisation** 11.2 Explore and pilot the potential role of performance-based climate resilience grants to support local-level adaptation planning processes and to ensure efficiency and effectiveness of funding mechanisms and project delivery. 11.3 Improve capacity of financial sector to identify, screen, manage, and reduce aggregated environmental and climate risk in investments.	**Section 12: Food and Nutrition Security: 1 2.A Agriculture** 12. A.6 Promote and integrate climate-smart agriculture (CSA) practices, into farming, trainings, extension services, policies and plans (responsive to the needs of disadvantaged groups and tailored to subsistence, semi-commercial and commercial farmers) and adopt nature-based and urban solutions where possible. **Potential projects (2019-2022):** - 500 farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture practices - 25% increase in numbers of farmers adopting organic production with secure market access - 150 Ministry of Agriculture staff trained in climate smart agriculture practices and sustainable resource management - 20% increase in adoption rate by farmers of climate adaptation programs - 250 hectares of land adopting and practicing climate resilient agriculture" **12.F.2 Fisheries – Blue economy** Upgrade existing aquaculture facilities and develop pond aquaculture to boost brood and seed stock production. Create a sustainable market environment for non-tuna species and for two new cultured species. Strengthening of community-based fisheries management. Promote sustainable fisheries and non- extractive cultured fisheries management by developing and implementing management tools that include the establishment and better management of inshore and deep water marine protected and locally managed areas, the use of seasonal closures, enforcement of size limits and quotas, restrictions on gear, and a review of the offshore fishing license caps and use of fish aggregating devices **Potential projects (2019 to 2022):** - To have Fijian farmers sustainably producing and supplying to both the local and export market 1000MT Tilapia, 1000 MT shrimps and two new species of cultured products - Launch small scale fisheries and aquaculture activities insurance scheme - To have a sustainable and profitable Tuna and non- tuna industry - To be a regional hub for processing 100% compliance to SOP and EMA

Table 1: Examples of adaptation and cross cutting interventions proposed in the NAP.
A full list is available in the NAP report and the companion Adaptation Sector Briefing Note Report.

	Adaptation Sector Expert	
GCF Thematic areas	**3. Infrastructure and built environment**	**4. Ecosystems and ecosystem services**
National Adaptation Plan	**Section 15: Infrastructure** Ensure that every rural community and every rural school has at least one building resilient to a Category 4 cyclone. Development of prioritization guidelines for planning asset maintenance and facility upgrades. Review and update standard school and health buildings. Planning and management strategies for school buildings used as evacuation centres. Maintain, adapt, and construct sea wall and drainage infrastructure to reduce saltwater intrusion on agricultural land due to sea level rise, increased tidal surge. **Potential projects (2019-2022):** - 50 buildings constructed and fixed - 53 public buildings maintained annually - Upgraded infrastructure (hardware & software] - Address risks to critical infrastructure – 1 per annum per sector based on priorities set by NDMO	**Section: Disaster Risk Management** Create flood risk and management action plans for all human settlements which operate at the catchment scale and involve either hybrid or nature-based solutions and payments for ecosystems services. Conduct flood management and forecasting activities for high-risk flood towns and priority river systems, such as Nadi River, Sigatoka River, Rewa River, and Labasa River NAP. Integrate ecosystem-based adaptation measures into considerations regarding the construction of seawalls and riverbanks, mangrove planting including protection measures such as use of riparian buffers. Develop and make accessible user-friendly hazard assessments, maps and models focusing on site-specific risks across coastal, riverine, urban and inland areas in Fiji, for all potential hazards (including sea level rise, storm surge, flooding, drought, salt intrusion, landslide, tsunamis etc.) to guide development planning at both national and sub-national level. Extend early warning systems for fishing and subsistence agriculture households, particularly remote communities, and train communities on disaster response and disaster risk reduction. **Potential projects (2019-2022):** - Coastal and Flood protection projects in 58 sites - Drainage grant to 13 municipal councils in Suva, Lami, Nasinu, Nausori, Sigatoka, Lautoka, Nadi, Ba, Labasa, Savusavu, Levuka, Tavua, Rakiraki Ministry of Waterways - Ongoing infield drainage for Fiji Sugar Corporation - 200km total Ministry of Waterways - GIS Database of drainage infrastructure -- Northern, Central, and Western - Dredging and maintenance of Fiji's 8 main rivers (Deuba, Sigatoka P2, Sigatoka P3, Penang Place, Nasivi, Ba, Labasa, Rewa) - 10 creek desilting projects Ministry of Waterways - 32 riverbank protection works completed Seawalls built in 30 sites, including Namoli, Lamini, Nananu, Navolau, Rukurukulevu, Naloto, Qelekuro, Vatani, Dromuna, Anitioki, Nasilai, Sasa, Nakawaga, Naisausau, Matamaivere, Dravuni, Soliyaga, Rukua, Nawaisomo, Yaroi, Qarani, Muana Village, Nailou Village, Natewa Village, Uma Village, Buakonikai Village, Yaqaga Village, Tavea Village, Caloa village, Veivatuloa village

Table 1: Examples of adaptation and cross cutting interventions proposed in the NAP.
A full list is available in the NAP report and the companion Adaptation Sector Briefing Note Report.

	Mitigation Sector Expert	
GCF Thematic areas	**5.Energy generation and access**	**6. Transport**
National Adaptation Plan	**Section 15: Infrastructure 15.D Energy** Review operation of hydropower and other renewable energy facilities to maximize output under new climate conditions. Diversify renewable energy generation to improve its resilience, including increasing generation from new solar facilities, expanding rural mini-grids and solar home systems, and completing feasibility studies for new biomass power plants. Implement a research, data collection and investment identification program to accelerate the renewable energy share in electricity generation. Increase the resiliency of the power system by investigating more diversified and distributed generation options, including mini grids. **Potential projects (2019-2022):** - 8 biofuel mills rehabilitated by 2022 Ministry of Infrastructure - Additional generation in Northwest Viti Levu and distributed generation in Vanua Levu, including 5*5 MW solar plants with storage in Viti Levu (Sigatoka, Lautoka, Tavua, Ba, Nadi) and 5 MW solar in Vanua Levu - 1,100 households to have solar home systems installed - 10 Mini Hydro systems installed - Promotion of Lithium Ion Battery Storage for Renewable Energy (NDC Investment Plans)	**Section 15: Infrastructure 15.D Transport** Address the impact of overloaded trucks on sealed road pavements, through an assessment of the impact of overloaded trucks, improving enforcement of load restrictions, and increasing weighing bridges. Undertake a condition inspection of Fiji Roads Authority assets with a view to establish a comprehensive plan to address any issues uncovered relating to serviceability and climate and disaster resilience. Renew, upgrade, and strengthen road infrastructure including bridges and water crossings ensuring that current and future environmental and climate risks are incorporated into their design. Promote institutional strengthening and capacity building for an integrated transport strategic planning framework, including by developing and enforcing certification standards for climate-proofing transport infrastructure. **Potential projects (2019-2022):** - Includes upgrades to 450km sealed and 1425km unsealed roads (climate upgrade portion) - Lautoka zero carbon transport strategy (NDC Investment Plan) - Whole of Lifecycle Vehicle Program (NDC Investment Plan) - Active Land Transport Infrastructure Upgrade (NDC Investment Plan) - Electric Vehicle Network Development (NDC Investment Plan) - Congestion Reduction Measures (NDC Investment Plan) - Bus Network Transport System (NDC Investment Plan)

Table 1: Examples of adaptation and cross cutting interventions proposed in the NAP.
A full list is available in the NAP report and the companion Adaptation Sector Briefing Note Report.

	Mitigation Sector Expert	
GCF Thematic areas	**7. Building cities, industries and appliances**	**8. Forest and Land use**
National Adaptation Plan	**Section 15: Infrastructure 15.D** Energy Investigate options for increasing energy resilience by ascertaining the benefits of demand side management options and strategies for building resilient power systems. Implement programs to ensure efficiency in energy use. Update the codes for energy use for ventilation, cooling and lighting and enforce the application of these in both public and the private sectors. Continue to educate communities regarding the construction and maintenance of the Rocket Clean Cook stoves. **Potential projects (2019-2022):** - Clean Cook stoves. Open fire cooking is completely replaced with LPG, kerosene, and electric stoves in urban - Adoption of ISO 50001:2011 – Energy Management LEDS - Program to promote enhanced green tourism (NDC Investment Plans) - Capacity Building in the assessment, design, construction of low-energy and low-carbon buildings (NDC Investment Plans) - Capacity Building in energy efficiency for industry (NDC Investment Plan) - Strengthening and expanding standards and labeling program for appliances (NDC Investment Program)	**Section 12: Food and Nutrition Security: Forestry** 12.A.7 Increase adoption of sustainable soil and land management techniques to address soil erosion, desertification, increased soil salination and to improve soil fertility, nutrient management, arability & soil restoration, and revise, strengthen and enact the Soil Conservation Improvement Bill and enforce the unplanned Rural & Forest Fire Strategy. **Potential projects (2017-2030):** - Develop Forest Monitoring Systems by 2025 Ministry of Forestry - 30 million trees planted in a 15 year campaign, including 4 million trees planted by 2022 - Decrease emissions from logging in natural forests (forest degradation) by 1% - Reduce emissions from deforestation by 10%

Photo Credits
Cover photo: Mamanuca: Shenila Saniyog; Page 5: Playtime: Mr. Pavlos Evangelidis, Page 9:Mamanuca: Shenila Saniyog. Back cover: Mr. Pavlos Evangelidis, Wantok Photography.

CONTACT

Ministry of Economy
Ro Lalabalavu House
370 Victoria Parade, Suva

PO Box 2212, Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji
Tele: (679) 3307011, Fax: (679) 3300834
Website: www.economy.gov.fj
Email: EconomyInformation@economy.gov.fj