



## Climate Change Division Office of the Prime Minister

# Summary Report Open Sector Working Group Meeting

**26<sup>th</sup> May 2023**



# Table of Contents

1. Introduction	4
2. Objectives and approach	4
2.1 Objectives	4
2.2 Approach	5
3. Participation	5
4. Session Content	6
4.1 Opening Remarks- CCD	6
4.2 Session 1: COP27 and COP 28 Outcomes and Challenges	7
4.2.1 Adaptation	7
4.2.2 Mitigation	7
4.2.3 Oceans	8
4.2.4 Finance	8
4.2.5 Feedback, Questions and Answers	9
4.3 Session 2: United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) Supporting private sector to contribute to the climate change agenda.	12
4.4 Session 3: NDA Private Sector Engagement Strategy	13
4.5 Session 4: Group Work by Sectors	13
4.5.1 Agriculture Sector	14
4.5.2 Energy Sector	15
4.5.3 Mobility Sector Analysis	17
4.5.4 Infrastructure Sector Analysis	18
4.5.5 Conclusion	20
4.6 Closing Remarks	20
5. Annexes	22
5.1 Meeting agenda	22
5.2 Terms of Reference for Open SWG Membership	23
5.2 Recording of Open SWG meeting	27
5.3 Meeting Registrants and PowerPoints	27
5.4 Glossary of key terms - Updated May 2021	29
5.5 Frequently asked questions	33

## **List of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

AE	Accredited Entities
CC	Climate Change
CCD	Climate Change Division
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DAE	Direct Access Entity
EV	Electric Vehicles
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
MoF	Ministry of Finance, Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NCCP	National Climate Change Policy
NDA	National Designated Authority
NDC	Nationally 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 Climate Change Division (CCD) is Fiji's National Designated Authority (NDA) secretariat to the Green Climate Fund (GCF), established an Open Sector Working Group (OSWG) in November 2020 inviting representations from all sectors including CSOs, private sector and individuals with interest to both be informed or to voice their contributions to the NDA secretariat .

The OSWG complements the consultative climate finance Sector Working Groups (SWGs) under 4 thematic areas<sup>1</sup>. The SWGs aim to include representation from organisations and all government ministries interested in participating in reviewing concept notes being presented to GCF and shaping relevant policies.

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 this context, the NDA Secretariat has two stakeholder engagement mechanisms to deliver on their 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 open membership SWG meeting for the year 2023 held in Suva on 26<sup>th</sup> May, carried out in partnership with the Fiji Delegation of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).

## 2. Objectives and approach

### 2.1 Objectives

The main purpose of this open membership SWG meeting was to inform members on Fiji's inter-ministerial work coordinated by the Climate Change Division (CCD) of the Prime Minister's Office including GCF readiness , provide updates on COP 27 outcomes and setting the stage for COP 28. Private sector engagement strategy was also part of the objectives.

The specific objectives for the sessions were to:

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

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<sup>1</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 Approach



Figure 1 Facilitator Mr. Filimone Ralogaivau, CCD

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 Mr. Filimone Ralogaivau (CCD, Ms. Nathalie Andre Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and Ms. Aswethal Kumar (CCD).

The meeting was split into four (4) key sessions and an extra session for questions and feedbacks for all the presentations.

## 3. Participation



Figure 2 - Participants of the Open Sector Working Group

A total of **88 individuals** registered for the event prior to the meeting date. Out of these, 60 attended the meeting in person (excluding presenters), while 12 participated virtually. It is worth noting that 27 of the participants were female, representing approximately 40% of the total attendees.

The attendees forming part of the open membership which comprised both new sign-ups and regular members who registered in 2021 and had attended previous meetings.. The participation was diverse and multisectoral which included representation from government sector focal points, private sector, academics, youths, and fresh graduates from universities, CSOs and NGOs. The position levels were also very diverse whereby the highest level of representation was from a number of Chief Executive Officers and Directors through to local consultants, community workers and research students.

## 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 5.2 and 5.3 respectively.

### 4.1 Opening Remarks- CCD



Figure 3 - Mr. Prashant Chandra Manager CCD

In the opening session of the meeting, Mr. Prashant Chandra, Manager of CCD, welcomed all participants on behalf of the Prime Minister's Office. During his remarks, Mr. Chandra highlighted this marks the second meeting with open sector working groups and platform for sharing information on climate change agenda and Fiji's position on these matters. He mentioned one of the key elements of achieving Fiji's priorities lies with the information sharing from the open sector working groups.

He also mentioned that the session centered on enhancing private sector engagement with regards to climate change. This critical dialogue will provide and explore innovative ways to involve and empower the private sector in collective efforts to mitigate the effects of climate change and forge a sustainable future.

He thanked the (UNCDF) and Global Green Growth Institute for their support and contribution and playing an instrumental part in the success of this open SWG meeting.

## 4.2 Session 1: COP27 and COP 28 Outcomes and Challenges

This session provided the outcomes of the COP 27 and key priority areas for COP 28 under the Climate Change Division Streams (Adaptation, Mitigation, Oceans and Finance).

### 4.2.1 Adaptation

As Egypt was holding the COP27 presidency the expectations were high for agreements on adaptation ambitions, implementation, and financing and the establishment of a Loss and Damage Fund.

Fiji's Climate Negotiators covered the following thematic areas:

- Adaptation Committee
- Global Goal on Adaptation
- Global Stocktake
- Santiago Network on Loss and Damage
- Loss and Damage Fund discussions

At COP 27, Parties agreed to the institutional arrangements of the Santiago Network on Loss & Damage (SNLD) which paves the way for its full operationalization. Its purpose is to catalyse the technical assistance of organizations, bodies, networks, and experts (OBNEs) for the implementation of relevant approaches at the local, national, and regional level in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.

The main highlight of the COP27 outcomes was the agreement on the creation of a 'Loss and Damage' fund. Targeting vulnerable developing countries, the fund will respond to loss and damage, the adverse effects of climate change. However, questions remain, (1) Who would contribute to the fund (2) who would benefit (3) How much a country would receive? (4) By when?

The next steps for COP 28 were highlighted as

- COP27 countries decided on the establishment of a framework for achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). A framework outline was agreed.
- The full framework will be developed during the four GGA workshops in 2023.
- Loss and Damage considerations will be for the fund, funding arrangements, sources of funding and coordination and complementarity.

### 4.2.2 Mitigation

The Mitigation stream outcomes from the COP 27 focused on transparency were as follows:

- Strongly advocates the inclusion of PSIDS experts in training courses for reporting to ensure that diverse perspectives are injected into the review of information to boost the understanding of the country-level needs and priorities both for adaptation and loss and damage.

- Must ensure that PSIDS technical experts are trained so we have the PSIDS technical expertise in our region to review Biennial Transparency Reports (BTRs), National Communications (NC) and associated reporting.
- To finalise the process for conducting voluntary reviews and the training courses needed to facilitate the reviews.
- Need scale up support of financial resources for the implementation of the Enhanced Transparency Framework.

The Mitigation Work Program in 2023 will focus on accelerating just energy transition through implementing policies and measures, financial, technological capacity building needs. The sustainable development goals will be integrated into this program.

The key requests for COP 28 are, decarbonization in energy systems, accelerating deployment of renewables and enhancing energy efficiency and adoption of technologies to facilitate decarbonizing the energy sector.

Another element of work for mitigation is markets and non-market mechanism. Countries can collaborate bilaterally and have a centralized mechanisms to have measures that will allow them to reduce emissions through carbon trading. Outcomes at COP 27 there was a package and rules agreed for ITMOS however further guidance on how this process will work, how the countries will have their registries is required and this will be discussed at COP 28.

#### 4.2.3 Oceans

The Oceans stream at COP 27 continued negotiations under UNFCCC where Fiji has been at the forefront of integration of the oceans climate change Nexus under the umbrella of the UNFCCC. The proposed idea was to put oceans at the forefront of all discussions, ensuring visibility to the presidency and global fora.

The primary point of discussions held in the ocean space at COP 27 was the nomination of co-facilitators. The initial facilitation was carried out by the UN with gender-responsive co-facilitation..

Heading into COP 28, some of the priorities for Oceans are being set by Fiji and several other Pacific nations. Fiji has been leading the space in oceans for the Pacific at COP, and is now very honored to be joined by Samoa and Palau on the same course of action. Loss and damage will be a key point for the Oceans works stream for vulnerable countries within the Pacific. Technology, capacity building and research are fundamental for this work.

#### 4.2.4 Finance

The Climate Finance Stream is a cross cutting section responsible for strategizing existing and new mechanisms to mobilise climate finance. The main agenda items at COP 27 were long term climate finance matters relating to the standard Committee on Climate Finance notably the

- i) The report from the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and the guidance to the Green Climate Fund
- ii) The report from Global Environment Facility (GEF) and guidance to the Global Environment Facility.

The 5 main outcomes for the finance stream at COP 27 were;

- **Definition of climate finance**  
Standing Committee on Finance to **prepare a report for consideration.**
- **Fulfilment of the \$100bn goal**  
COP 27 **expresses serious concern** that the goal **has not been met** and urges developed countries to take action to meet their commitment.
- **Progress on the New Collective Quantified Goal** (including a regional collective climate finance goal for Pacific SIDS)  
Continue with a work plan for 2023
- **Establishment of a Loss and Damage Facility**  
An **agreement on establishing funding arrangements** with a focus on addressing loss and damage, including establishing a fund.
- **Doubling of adaptation finance**  
SCF to **prepare a report** on the doubling of adaptation finance for consideration at COP 28.

The Key priority areas for COP 28 are the discussions on the definition of climate finance, the fulfillment of the \$100bn goal potentially through a new collective quantified goal and long-term finance, deliberations on setting a new NCQG, establishment of a Loss and Damage Facility, adaptation finance and guidance to the GCF, GEF and AF.

#### 4.2.5 Feedback, Questions and Answers



Figure 4 Question and Answer Session

**Q. Question was raised on the national communication by Kelera Oli from the Ministry of Health & Medical Services.**

A. Third national communication has been submitted and currently working on first Biennial Update Report which will be published in 2024 and then moving forward to Biennial Transparency Report and national communication.

**Feedback:** Rohini from Sea and Soil. I believe that the private sector should play a significant role in funding the country's development, considering the large sums of money required as discussed in the slides. The Government of Fiji and the division are already working on frameworks and aiming to implement them. We need to engage the private sector and define how

they can align themselves and contribute to more projects. In fact, I think the climate change division

should be elevated to the status of a ministry because of the vast potential they hold. Our work currently involves 2000 women and focuses on activities like seaweed and coffee plantation, as well as biochar production, making us the first Pacific company to work on biochar. Our objective is not only to establish projects but also to obtain carbon credits by aligning these projects. Even a woman in a remote village could achieve great things through this approach. More guidance and assistance are required in private sector.

**Response from Manager CCD:** Certainly, engaging the private sector is of utmost importance. We have a climate finance strategy in place that emphasizes this priority. Additionally, I'd like to inform everyone about the recently launched the Drua Incubator, where we are accepting proposals for community assistance, including through private sector involvement. For more information, please visit our Climate Change portal. If any of you have further contributions or questions, please feel free to share. I want to emphasize the availability of information on the Fiji climate change portal, where you can find details about working groups, events, projects, and our progress in developing a national carbon market strategy. Carbon markets are a new concept in Fiji, so it's crucial to understand the landscape and the opportunities offered by our partners and the private sector. The government is working on creating the necessary framework for participating in carbon markets. This falls under the purview of our mitigation team and the overall climate change division.

**Q. Lavetanalagi Seru from the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network** asked, will Fiji be submitting a case study to the transitional committee for loss and damage and what will that be? Does Fiji have focal point for gender action and is there a gender action plan developed?



**A. Director CCD responded,** Regarding the question on studying loss and damage, we are actively involved as a full-time advisor supporting the government of UAE in the transitional committee. Loss and damage is a critical topic for Fiji, and we view the CROC Trust Fund as an effective mechanism for accessing funding and implementing local-level initiatives. This goes beyond relocation and encompasses other indicators in national adaptation planning. The case study highlights how the Relocation Trust Fund can be integrated into existing local mechanisms to address community-level needs and utilize the process under an international umbrella. However, the political nature of this mechanism makes it uncertain when decisions will be made. The case

study, which we have submitted, delves into these aspects and runs approximately eight pages. It explores fundamental issues, such as replicating the CROC Trust Fund as a regional mechanism, making it a unique and noteworthy case study for the transitional committee. We are awaiting feedback on the study in the upcoming session at Bonn. We can provide you with a copy of the study for your reference once we receive the feedback.

In relation to the second question regarding the gender focal point, I would like to highlight that the Ministry of Women, specifically the Director of Women, would assume that role. We have been collaborating closely with UN Women to facilitate the participation of the Ministry of Women in these meetings. Additionally, the Ministry of Finance has a gender plan in place, and the National Designated Authority (NDA) is currently undergoing the accreditation process for the Ministry of Finance. Furthermore, there exists a Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) policy, along with a gender focal point within the budget and planning section. We are also keen on incorporating gender mainstreaming into the budgetary processes, and we are interested in piloting this approach.

**Q. Jodie Smith from Matanataki**, I'm reading that there was a breakthrough agenda announced at COP 27 - a master plan to accelerate decarbonisation of five major sectors, power, Road transport, steel, hydrogen and agriculture, and I'm just wondering if Fiji is involved in that conversation because there seems to be at least two if not three areas that could be very interesting for Fiji to be able to develop concepts to raise finance in particular power and hydrogen for future energy needs. We heard at the National Economic Summit Fiji wanted to go full EV. We are producing only 1/4 of our full energy needs, so maybe looking at hydrogen projects for the future. So it seems to me like there may be some investment grants and non-grant opportunities that that maybe announced or launched at COP 28. Is Fiji thinking about that at the government level?

**A. Response by Director CCD-** Let us know which country or a coalition of countries that made the announcement. However, just to add a few other initiatives from COP 27 that Fiji is working with one is the Climate Investment Fund. Working with GGGI and the Ministry of Finance as a focal point for World Bank to look at a concept note that would be due by end of this year and the theme of this would be nature-based solutions. The second announcement was in the global shield. Working with UNICEF and the UN infrastructure now and there will be some discussions in Bonn as well as to how we can access funding from the global shield. Others works on insurance and parametric insurance is ongoing.

#### 4.3 Session 2: UNCDF - Supporting private sector to contribute to the Climate Change Agenda.



Figure 5 - Praneel Pritesh UNCDF

UNCDF technical specialist provided summary on the parametric insurance, blue bonds, and digital finance. The focus has been on work that UNICEF has done through the Pacific Insurance and Climate Adaptation Program, especially in terms of piloting parametric microinsurance in Fiji and in Tonga and Vanuatu. The program is a joint program between three UN agencies, UNDP, UNICEF and UN EU. This is regionally funded program by the governments of Australia and New Zealand and there is specific funding for activities in Fiji, from the Government of India and the Government of Luxembourg to the incubator.

The objective is to improve the financial preparedness of Pacific Small Island developing states towards climate change and natural hazards. Using an insurance mechanism that aims to improve the resilience of local communities towards climate change and hazards. The mechanism used is parametric insurance which is trigger based without any assessments. The trigger could be certain amount of rainfall, certain wind category, could be even droughts, floods.

Market based is a user principle. You buy, you pay. The concept of free handouts largely because it's not sustainable. Best way to ensure sustainability is working together with the private sector. To help the traditionally insured people who have never been able to get such products, working with the private sector to ensure that whatever is being developed has sustainability into it can even survive even if program closes by 2025. The objective is to reach 66,000 households by 2025.

Private Sector current partners under the program total of 21 UN agencies, UN partners, those related to gender, regulators, Reserve Bank of Fiji and regional regulators in terms of building their capacity towards parametric insurance, towards climate disaster financing instruments. Also working with the Prime Minister's Office and CCD.

Parametric insurance is indeed a climate financing instrument that provides a mechanism for addressing "loss and damages" caused by extreme weather events. Unlike traditional insurance, which relies on assessing actual losses, parametric insurance triggers payouts based on predefined parameters, such as wind speed, rainfall levels, or earthquake magnitude. This enables a faster response and quicker infusion of cash liquidity to affected households or entities within a few days of the event.

The private sector's potential involvement in parametric insurance can be leveraged through de-risking instruments provided by organizations like the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF). These de-risking instruments help deliver innovative solutions and attract private sector investment in climate risk insurance.

One important aspect of parametric insurance is its linkage to social protection. By extending coverage to the most vulnerable groups, such as low-income households or marginalized communities, through government or donor-supported schemes, parametric insurance can provide an additional layer of financial resilience. This integration with social protection initiatives helps ensure that those who are most susceptible to the impacts of extreme weather events have access to timely financial support.

Overall, parametric insurance serves as an important tool in climate financing, providing swift liquidity and addressing the needs of affected individuals and communities in the aftermath of extreme weather events, while also leveraging private sector involvement and linking to social protection measures.

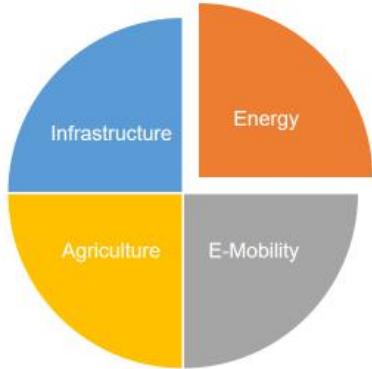
#### 4.4 Session 3: NDA Private Sector Engagement Strategy

The presentation was based on a work in progress for private sector engagement strategy developed with the support of the Consultant Mr. Sumeet Naidu as part of Green Climate Fund (GCF) Readiness Phase 2 for Fiji.

The objectives of the strategy is to consolidate work carried out to date to assist the Fiji Government in leveraging and partnering with the private sector to progress climate change mitigation and adaptation activities and building on the strategy to GCF concept notes involving innovative private sector financing mechanisms on priority sectors for Fiji.

#### 4.5 Session 4: Group Work by Sectors

In Session 4 of the OSWG, the stakeholders of the four sectors (Agriculture, Energy, E-mobility and Infrastructure) were grouped into their sectors in efforts to get their feedback on the (3) NDA strategy engagement pillars; 1- **Relevance**, 2- **Opportunity** and 3 – **Innovation**, (ROI). Below is a brief summary of their feedback.



## Questions for each sector

What more can be done to strengthen the strategic pillars

- 1 – Relevance ?
- 2 – Opportunity ?
- 3 – Innovation?



### 4.5.1 Agriculture Sector



Figure 7 Agriculture Sector discussions

The agriculture sector members of the working group noted the numerous policies in place to guide the sector and highlighted that the National Adaptation Plan -2017 provides great direction for this sector in achieving emission reductions. However, to drive some of the policies, relevant government ministries agriculture, forestry should align work plans and strategy with the NAP.

Private sector needs to align with the Climate Change Act, NAP and Ministerial Policies in efforts to access to finance as well. Carbon markets provide great opportunity for the private sector, however how to support private sector engage in climate funding, this should come through a government led process, government to be aware of the opportunities. There needs to be consideration of global standards and GESI plans.

In terms of the Innovation pillar, there is a desire to move to organic -climate smart agriculture practices. It is happening at a community level, there is a need support initiatives at this level. Government should drive organic agriculture policies.

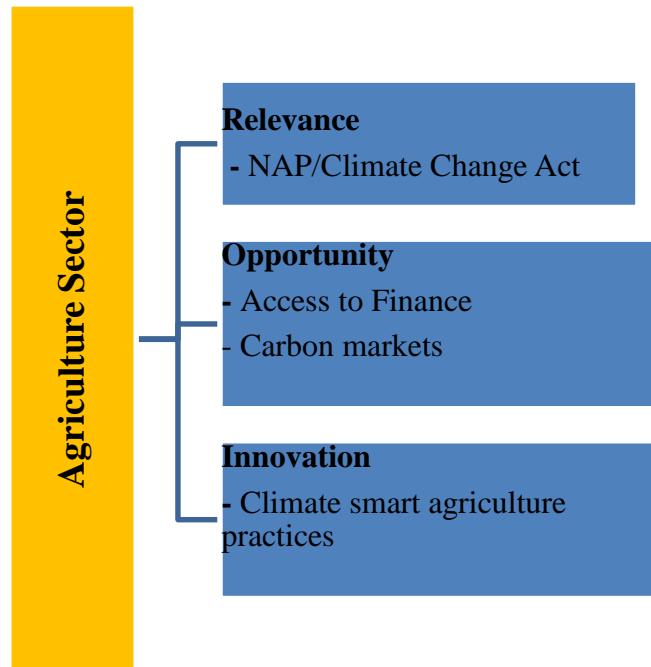


Figure 6 Agriculture sector engagement pillars

#### 4.5.2 Energy Sector



Figure 7- Energy Sector Discussion

The energy sector members of the working group mentioned that the Climate Change Act -2021 through its private sector advisory committee will have great impact in developing policies in energy, especially to mobilize finance for energy projects. This committee will be important in driving climate change programmes in this sector. The members present suggested that there

should be a review on Energy Act 2017 for the independent regulator<sup>2</sup>, in-order to provide more support system (Technical Support to FCCC) from government to improve capacity of FCCC to better perform this role and involve private sector.

There was also a suggestion on how the CCD/UNDP - FREF<sup>3</sup> developing the off-grid guidelines for rural electrification can be a good reference for FCCC to develop similar methodology to help FCCC regulate on -grid energy sector as well.

In terms of ‘Opportunity’ there was substantial discussion on finance access, and to how to support private sector engagement in climate funding.

For ‘Innovation’ – the consensus was more focus on studies/research for private sector to participate. The private sector is already there, there is a need though to facilitate the ‘ease of doing businesses for private sector.

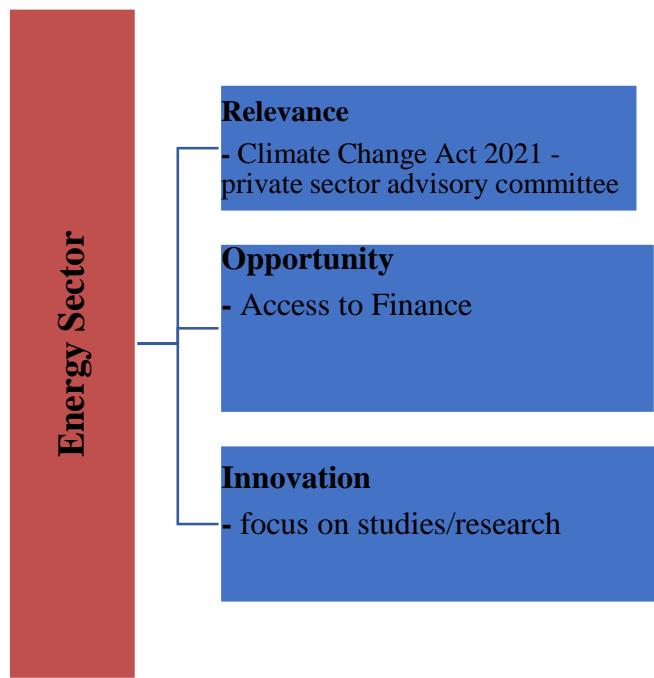


Figure 8 Energy sector - engagement pillars

<sup>2</sup> Fijian Competition and Consumer Commission (FCCC)

<sup>3</sup> Fiji Rural Electrification Fund

#### 4.5.3 Mobility Sector Analysis



Figure 9 - Mobility Sector Working Group discussions

The members of the e-mobility sector agreed that there are relevant policies in place such as the NDC investment plan and LEDS to transition as a country to a cleaner, lower emission transport system. There are many opportunities, however this sector should have better communication channels to make these opportunities more widely available and needs support from the government.

To attract private sector investments, the group suggested that more attractive concessions should be made available for this sector. Affordability of technology is also important – transition can also happen if technology is affordable. The members highlighted that accelerator programs that are available such as the Drua incubator program which can provide great incentives for this sector and can support the transition.

The members suggested that there needs to be also greater emphasis on the marine transport system. There are incentives for EVs but not for E buses and E vessels, we need a package of incentives for these transport systems as well. Outboard motors have high emissions, there is a possibility in utilizing more electric outboards that are available, Scrubbers on our ships where emissions are captured on the ship before emitted in the air. There was also a mention on transport decarbonization strategy as mentioned in the Climate Change Act this was noted by the group as helpful.

There were also discussions on End-of-life policy for both the vehicles and the batteries that come with it. Consideration to not introduce a new waste issue with e-vehicles is needed.

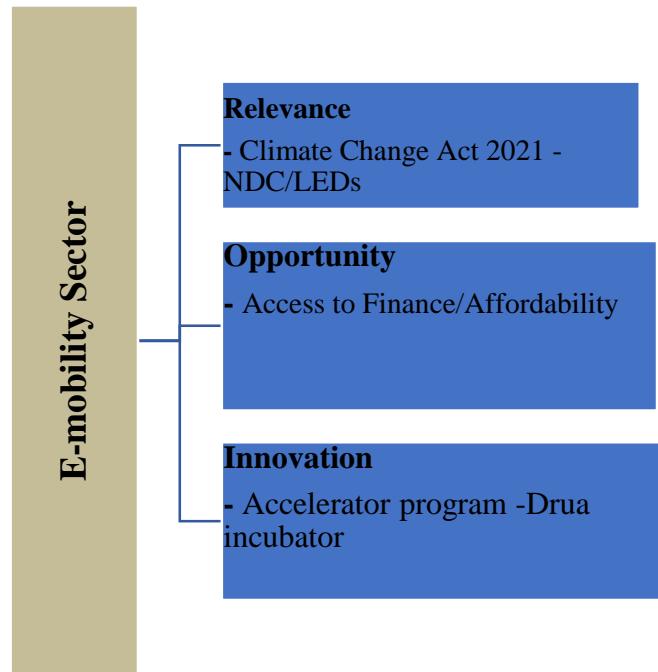


Figure 10 E-mobility sector - engagement pillars

#### 4.5.4 Infrastructure Sector Analysis



Figure 11 - Infrastructure Sector Working Group discussion

The members of the infrastructure sector emphasized that the main priority for this sector is understanding the national vision; *where we would like to see Fiji in five to ten years*. There are different players and actors, many of which local private sector players that do not always an easy

route to present solutions. A request was also made on emphasis (and funding) on analysis and assessments both in terms of Environmental and Social Standards and Feasibility studies to ensure the locations and value for money is optimised in infrastructure projects. An example was given where a private sector had a viable waste solution that was scaling up existing operations and that cost a fraction of waste solutions that were being considered in infrastructure plans.

Availability of start-up capital, funds needed for private sector were discussed as were discussions on human resource capacity and use of local knowledge, local expertise with appropriate remuneration to mitigate migration of skills. A solution was proposed to include the provision of retention of skills on providing scholarship in-order to up-skill and retain people

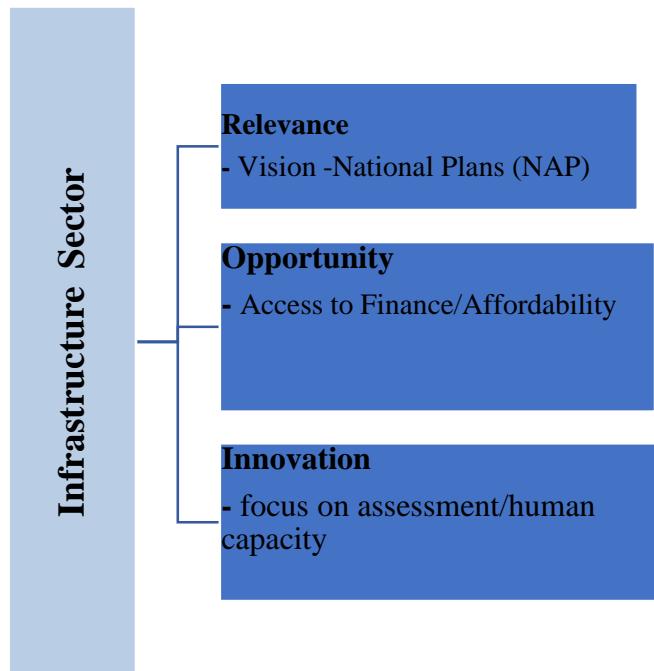


Figure 12 - Infrastructure sector –engagement pillars

#### 4.5.5 Conclusion

The dialogue meetings with stakeholders from the four (4) key sectors enabled useful perspectives and solutions for engagement with the private sector.

It was also an opportunity for key elements of the NDA private sector strategy to be communicated for feedback. There was active participation in group discussions to provide context and key points to be addressed within the NDA strategy engagement pillars.

The feedback further reinforced the need for a strategy, to provide some direction on engagement with the private sector. Using the engagement pillars as a framework, the NDA is expected to engage in meaningful collaboration, partnering and leveraging with the private sector in progressing climate change mitigation and adaptation programmes going-forward.



#### 4.6 Closing Remarks

The Country representative for GGGI Fiji, Mr. Daniel Munoz Smith thanked everyone for joining the second meeting of the Open Sector Working Group particularly thanked Mr. Kushaal Raj, the Director of Climate Change Division and his team from the Office of the Prime Minister for hosting. Also thanked Praneell Pritesh from UNCDF and sponsoring the day's event.

He mentioned the aim of this working group was to support the climate change division as the NDA and its role for Fiji. This was a great platform to have two-way conversations, share information's where all sectors and stakeholder's views are needed to inform the NDA. This second working group meeting was to collect the feedback inputs, particularly from the private sector as the Fiji delegation prepares to head to Bonn for the next set of meetings and prepare for COP 28. Fiji wishes to prioritize adaptation and engaging the private sector.



Figure 13 Kushaal Raj, Director CCD

Final remarks were made by Mr. Kushaal Raj the Director Climate Change Division, where he thanked everyone wholeheartedly for their participation and presence. The diverse field of stakeholders in particular the private sector, and how the private sector is the way to go. There's a lot of work that needs to be dealt with regards to readiness and capacity building and that's why this meeting is to learn and to grow together as a nation. He also thanks GGGI for the continued technical assistance and an excellent delivery partner. The inputs from this meeting will craft and provide a path towards discussions at Bonn and into COP 28. Aimed to prioritize loss and damage, adaptation renewable energy portfolios given that the COP 28 presidency has essential resources on renewable energies. He also mentioned that any consultations or meetings locally CCD will be happy to be part of that and provide support.

## 5. Annexes

### 5.1 Meeting agenda



#### **Open SWG Information Session – Meeting #2 – 26th May 2023 Grand Pacific Hotel (9am -12pm)**

Open SWG Hybrid Information session on the upcoming Conference of Parties and Private Sector Engagement

Time	Description	
<b>15 minutes before meeting</b>	Registration for those attending in person/ all online attendees to arrive online	
<b>Working Session</b>		
<b>15 minutes</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	CCD
<b>30 minutes</b>	<b>Session 1. COP27 and 28</b> 1. What happened in COP27? 2. Final outcome 3. Key areas in COP 28 for Fiji	CCD
<b>10 mins</b>	<b>Q+A</b>	CCD
<b>30 mins</b>	<b>Session 2. UNCDF – supporting private sector to contribute to the climate change agenda</b> Brief summary of key goals through parametric insurance, blue bonds and digital finance.	UNCDF
<b>15 mins</b>	<b>Tea Break</b>	
<b>15 mins</b>	<b>Session 3. Private sector Strategy</b> Key points from existing policies Direction for key sectors	GGGI
<b>20 mins</b>	<b>Session 4. Group Work by 'Sector'</b> 1. Energy 2. E-mobility 3. Agriculture 4. Infrastructure (including health centers, schools)	CCD/ GGGI
<b>30 mins</b>	<b>Open Discussion</b> 1. Report back from working groups (20 mins) 2. Open Floor Discussion (10 mins)	CCD
<b>10 mins</b>	<b>Closing comments</b>	CCD
<b>3 hours</b>	<b>End of session</b>	CCD
	<b>Lunch</b>	

## 5.2 Terms of Reference for Open SWG Membership

*Terms of Reference were developed by the Climate Change 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. The ToRs have since been changed to reflect the new changes in Division and Ministry*

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

### Background

#### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Climate Change Division (CCD) 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>4</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>5</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 CCD as the National Designated Authority (NDA) Secretariat 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

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<sup>4</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>5</sup> The overlap in these sectors will be accommodated whenever needed with cross-sectoral engagement between groups

between 3-12 November. Over 160 registered and 76 attended the four sector working groups meetings.

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 Secretariat.

### **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 Secretariat 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>6</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>7</sup>.

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<sup>6</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>7</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.

- 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.
- 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 Secretariat (CCD), the MoF, 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 MoF's GESI policy.

## **6. Meetings**

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 CCD 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 support by other SWG members as required.

## **8. Roles and Responsibilities**

- 8.1 CCD 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 CCD 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 (CCD)

## 5.2 Recording of Open SWG meeting

[https://zoom.us/rec/share/nL7ePQhlokgFOvM2CzmElrdI7bGS0agImOT4KIBdu3S9uTlwfYlaKmPT8GW\\_EwkiU.tRAsKgcW7TDco5br](https://zoom.us/rec/share/nL7ePQhlokgFOvM2CzmElrdI7bGS0agImOT4KIBdu3S9uTlwfYlaKmPT8GW_EwkiU.tRAsKgcW7TDco5br)

Passcode: gkP\$j6cc

## 5.3 Meeting Registrants and PowerPoints

	Name	Organisation /Ministry	Position
1	Sangeeta Devi	Nari Sbha	Secretary
2	Sheldon Chanel	UNCDF	Comms
3	Sharon Levula	UNCDF	GESI
4	Deepitika Chand	CCD	Climate Change – Mitigation Officer
5	Laurie Singh	CCD	PMU
6	Vineel Kumar	MOF	Policy Analyst
7	Ranadi Levula	UNCDF	M+E
8	Anupriya Sharma	MoMEA	PAO
9	Sumeet Naidu	GGGI	Consultant
10	Seitata Tamanikaiyaro	FDB	Manager Climate Change
11	Ilisapeci	IOM	National Officer
12	Peni Nawai	MPWMST	SEO
13	Vishal Prasad	Dept Energy	SSO
14	Setareki Tuiloveni	Dept. Energy	TO
15	Lusiana Biumaiwa	MoHMS	SHI
16	Nikhil Lal	SPMS	Management Consultant
17	Mere Lakeba	CI	Director
18	Marianne Tabuauri	UNCDF	Project Support Officer
19	Jodi Smith	Matanataki	CEO
20	Reshmi Kumari	Min of Sugar Industry	Director
21	Ulaiasi Butukoro	KOICA	Program Manager
22	Rohitesh Prasad	Fiji National University	Head of School
23	Netani Qicataba	NPI	Principal Engineer
24	Yovin Naidu	AGs Office	Legal Officer
25	Vosa K	FNU	
26	Mere Roden	SIA	Office Manager
27	Olivia. V	UNCDF	Digital Associate
28	Veima B	UNCDF	Communications Associate
29	Namisha Nikita	CCD	Mitigation Officer
30	Talei Cavu	CCD	Oceans Intern
31	Sophia Rounds	CCD	Secretary

32	Stephen Douglas	GHD	Manager Environment
33	Sunil Kumar	OPM	Economic Advisor
34	Raghu Chowdhary	Paradise Lighting	Director
35	Nivaskar Narayan	Paradise Lighting	Business Development Manager
36	Rohini Hamid	Sea and Soil	CEO
37	Mereani Nata	CCD	Climate Finance Officer
38	Emma Newland	GHD	Environment Team Lead
39	Kelera Oli	MoH	CCHO
40	Tushar Keshav	Clay Energy	BDM
41	Emele Lasaga	UNCDF	Project Support Officer
42	Matilde Faiva	Habitat for Humanity Fiji	Senior Manager Operations
43	Soqe Vuniwaya	SME	Director
44	Leba Gaunavinaka	CCD/ UNITAR	GIS Expert
45	Ponijese Korovulavula	Live and Learn	Food Security Coordinator
46	Niamh Dobson	Australian High Comission	First Secretary
47	Vipul Prasad	CCD	Senior Finance Analyst
48	Shayal Kapoor	SGO	PLO
49	Mark Borg	SDMS	Management Consultant
50	Rusiate Naitininitagane	FNU	Instructor
51	Merekilene Tinai	UNCDF	Project Support
52	Minal Narayan	UNCDF	Project Support
53	Josaia Tokoni	FLOSS	Knowledge Management Officer
54	Beato Dulunaqio	Live and Learn	REDD Coordinator
55	Usaia Rayaqona	Live and Learn	Food Security Officer
56	Jin Dawali	FLLC	CEO
57	Shelveen Kumar	GGGI	Climate Finance Advisor Fiji
58	Esther Bates	GGGI	Manager Pacific Green Entrepreneurs Network
59	Daniel Munoz Smith	GGGI	Country Representative
60	Ilasapeci Rayawa	GGGI	RSO
61	Shayal Prasad	GGGI	CSO
	<b>Presenters</b>		
	Filimone Ralogaivau	CCD	Adaptation Officer
	Kushaal Raj	CCD	Director
	Prashant Chandra	CCD	Manager
	Ranjila Singh	CCD	Mitigation Officer
	Gabriel Mara	CCD	Adaptation Officer
	Izhaar Ali	CCD	Manager Oceans

Praneel Pritesh	UNCDF	Manager
Nathalie Andre	GGGI	Regional Adaptation Lead

## 5.4 Glossary of key terms<sup>8</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 minimize 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 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

<sup>8</sup> Partly extracted from the guidelines for NDAs or focal points available at Annex XIII of GCF/B.08/45.

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 specialized 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 recognizes 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 minimize 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 mobilize 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.

## 5.5 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.