



Briefing Note
**Fiji National Climate
Change Policy**







1. Introduction

Climate change poses an ongoing threat to Fiji's constitutional commitments and values, national wellbeing, environmental stability, development priorities, and economic sustainability. To address this, the Fijian Government developed Fiji's first National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) in 2012. The NCCP (2012) served as the overarching policy instrument for climate change in Fiji and encompassed these issues at local, national and international level.

However, since its launch in 2012, climate change priorities have greatly evolved. In addition to this, ongoing research has provided new information and scientific data. It was therefore necessary to review and update the 2012 NCCP in the context of the latest available information to ensure that the policy is accurately reflected and addresses issues of current importance. The revised NCCP was launched in 2018. It prioritises relevant and current issues related to climate change and provides objectives and strategies for protecting Fiji's people, environment and economy. The NCCP (2018) is closely aligned with the objectives of the 5-Year & 20-Year National Development Plan (NDP) and seeks to accelerate Fiji's progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), and other national, regional and global commitments.



2. What's in the National Climate Change Policy?

The NCCP (2018) has three central policy pillars: human-rights based, gender-responsive and evidence-based. The Policy sets out the Government's position on climate change and identifies eight core principles, namely; sustainable well-being, social cohesion, inclusivity, partnership, agility, urgency, transparency and communication, and integrated learning.

The 25 strategic objectives of the NCCP 2018 are grouped under three headings:



Foundations

(national risk governance, leadership and global climate action), National governance, institutional arrangements and global priorities



Dimensions

(climate change adaptation, and climate change mitigation), and Risk management priorities and actions required to reduce climate and disaster risk



Pathways

(national capacity development, sustainable financing, and private sector transition and engagement).

Common priorities and enablers for sustainable and resilient development

There is significant focus on transitioning the role of the private sector, diversifying Fiji's climate finance sources, and ensuring that climate change adaptation, greenhouse-gas emissions mitigation, risk reduction, and environmental protection objectives and actions can be interlinked and collectively addressed.

Fiji's global and regional priorities on oceans, loss and damage, human mobility and relocation, and climate action are reflected as key requirements to ensure domestic progress is not undermined.

The NCCP advances the integration and multi-stakeholder engagement required to deliver a central, coordinated and inter-governmental commitment to resilient, equitable and environmentally sustainable development within and across national planning processes. The Policy's approaches and objectives have been aligned with key international conventions, frameworks and commitments and serves to further anchor Fiji's commitments under the Paris Agreement.



3. How should the National Climate Change Policy 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, that is now being exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in significant fiscal 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 of the climate finance landscape and funding opportunities



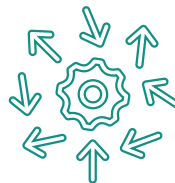
Bureaucratic and complex access modalities of international climate funding sources



Lack of high-quality and transformative climate change project proposals to meet stringent requirements of the funders and donors



Limited strategic approach and lack of 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

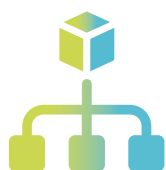


Limited capacity to overcome the barriers (policy, legal, regulatory, institutional, fiduciary, technical, financial, business and social) to scale up climate solutions



Inadequate national tagging and tracking system of climate finance

Access to climate finance: The Climate Change and International Cooperation Division (CCICD) at the Ministry of Economy (MoE) is cognisant of the above challenges and the potential of climate finance mobilization to transform the NCCP into tangible investment on the ground as inclusive and viable business. The NCCP and other national and sectoral development and climate policies will guide CCICD and their partners to design and develop a pipeline of highly prioritized and fundable proposals to access climate finance to scale up demand led and proven climate adaptation and mitigation 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.



4. Examples of projects aligned to the NCCP

Examples of potential adaptation and mitigation interventions and projects that are prioritized under the NCCP are outlined in Table 1.

Table 1: Examples of potential interventions and projects under NCCP	
<p>Objective 1: Disaster Risk Management</p> <p>Improved access to and use of hydrological, telemetry, and meteorological information infrastructure, of trainings on communicating the relevant data, and of strengthened forecasting systems that support hydrological, telemetry and meteorological services to improve the data-drive nature of Fiji's disaster preparedness and response meteorological information infrastructure, of trainings on communicating the relevant data, and of strengthened forecasting systems that support hydrological, telemetry and meteorological services to improve the data-drive nature of Fiji's disaster preparedness and response meteorological information infrastructure, of trainings on communicating the relevant data, and of strengthened forecasting systems that support hydrological, telemetry and meteorological services to improve the data-drive nature of Fiji's disaster preparedness and response Ministry of Infrastructure</p>	
<p>Identified Interventions from NAP and NCCP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upgrade the existing FMS infrastructure, resources, and technical capacities to provide the basis for climate monitoring and projecting, user-friendly climate information services, GIS modeling of critical economic sectors, hazard and risk information, and early warning and prediction systems to stakeholders and community groups (including disadvantaged groups) • Enhance meteorological prediction systems for flooding and droughts as well as a Forest Fire Watch System • Explore and establish post-disaster financing modalities such as robust insurance mechanisms or a payment system for providing tailor-made meteorological, hydrological and earthquake services to be used by researchers, private sector entities, and development planners • Ensure sufficient resources are made available to fully implement the Fiji Implementation Plan for Enhanced Climate Services • Establish a standardized approach to collecting information on climate change interventions to facilitate monitoring and evaluation of outcomes relative to policy targets, including the use of Data Supply and Reporting Obligation Agreements to ensure that the data and information needed to track adaptation are provided to centralized Data Repositories and services • Collect, use, share and manage accurate data and information in user-friendly formats to inform sound risk reduction decision-making by the public sectors to facilitate the development of a common methodology that incorporates the existing best practices on conducting climate vulnerability assessments that can be used by all relevant stakeholders 	<p>Strategic Plans Targets (2019-2022)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and deploy integrated, multi-hazard early warning systems • Develop impact-based forecast and risk-based warnings • Functional radar systems installed that provides coverage of all outer islands • Regional instrument and training centres built and operational • To cover for all black spots in major island observation areas • 4 divisional integrated vulnerability assessments and hazard maps completed every 3 years • 30 sets of telemetry instruments to be installed

Table 1: Examples of potential interventions and projects under NCCP

Objective 2: Agriculture

Improved Ministry of Agriculture institutional, technical, and scientific capacity and partnerships for evidence-based planning and a targeted research agenda

Identified Interventions from NAP and NCCP

- Strengthen research collaborations with farmers, communities, and national research institutions supported (but not led) by regional and international institutions to create a community of practice and to support knowledge networks which facilitate innovative and climate adaptive farming practices
- Integrate climate change adaptation issues and actions into policy plans such as commodity and industry plans and into the development and strengthening of agriculture support services of research, extension, and training
- Improve bio-security efforts (including border controls, early warning systems, on-site visits, and breeding programs) to enhance protection and action against invasive species, pests, and diseases which can affect plant and livestock production, and establish good biosecurity facilities that follow sustainable agriculture practices

Strategic Plans Targets (2019-2022)

- Develop and implement a consolidated framework for Climate Change Resilient Agriculture
- Establish 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

Table 1: Examples of potential interventions and projects under NCCP

Objective 3: Forestry

Develop financing mechanisms and promote stewardship of the forests to capture socio-economic impact of forests and promote the conservation and preservation of forests with Ministry of Forestry

Identified Interventions from NAP and NCCP

- Implement a national program to reduce the negative impacts of logging, inland and seabed mining and to improve the monitoring and management of rivers and watersheds (ridge to reef)
- Foster awareness and social responsibility (Climate change mitigation & adaptation, good citizens, gender equality, disability issues etc.)
- Identify and map 'climate-vulnerable species' of flora and fauna and their habitat (lifecycle), including connections with the need to control invasive species and create a national plan and monitoring system to support climate vulnerable species

Strategic Plans Targets (2019-2022)

- Achievement of at least 2 of Fiji's commitments to international obligations
- 1000 hectares of urban forest established
- Forest Trust Fund Established and Operational
- Benefit sharing mechanism developed and adopted
- Carbon trading policy and financing mechanism developed and adopted

Table 1: Examples of potential interventions and projects under NCCP

Objective 4: Electricity

Access to affordable, reliable, modern and sustainable energy services Ministry of Infrastructure

Identified Interventions from NAP and NCCP

- Create a long-term resilience strategy for the energy sector underpinned by a climate risk model that identifies which power systems and network components are most vulnerable to climate change, ensuring cost-effectiveness of measures can be properly evaluated, enabling measures delivering the greatest net benefits can be prioritized, and a variety of international and domestic source of finance across both private and public sources be strategically used
- Expansion of undergrounding of distribution lines
- Enhance insurance protection of key energy assets as part of the broader Disaster Risk Financing Strategy of Government
- Review, design and construction standards for energy facilities so that they are climate change resilient, including a review of design, technical and installation standards of solar home systems

Strategic Plans Targets (2019-2022)

- Target for undergrounding of distribution lines in Suva, Nadi, Lautoka, Ba, Labasa and Savusavu CVA
- Wailoa-Nadarivatu double circuiting, Nadarivatu to Sigatoka, and Virara to Koronubu, Ba and Wailoa to Central Region Circuit 2 CVA
- 2 feasibility studies per year into capacity expansion and how to increase share of the renewable energy market Ministry of Infrastructure
- 10 Fiji Renewable Energy Fund projects completed Ministry of Infrastructure

A copy of the National Climate Change Policy (2018) can be accessed online via the link:

http://fijiclimatechangeportal.gov.fj/sites/default/files/documents/FIJI%20NCCP%202018-2030_0.pdf





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