



## Briefing Note

# The Fiji Low Emission Development Strategy







## 1. Introduction

The Fiji National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) was launched in 2018 and outlines objectives and strategies for protecting Fiji's people, environment and economy. The NCCP anchors Fiji's national climate change response and nationally determined commitment under the Paris Agreement within national policy and planning processes. The NCCP provides the mandate for the National Adaptation Process and the Low Emission Development Strategy.

The Paris Agreement invites countries to develop their Low Emission Development pathway providing a guide for decarbonisation<sup>1</sup> over the long term. Understanding the options for decarbonisation is particularly useful for setting more immediate five-year mitigation and adaptation targets (or Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the global targets within the Paris Agreement).

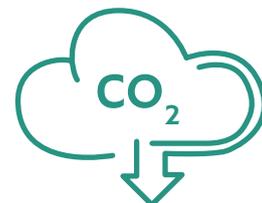
To support Fiji's efforts to achieve carbon neutrality, the NCCP sets out strategies to;



source 100% of national electricity production from renewable energy sources by 2035,



achieve net zero annual greenhouse-gas emissions by 2050; and



decarbonise Fiji's transport sector.

<sup>1</sup>Decarbonisation is the process by which countries, individuals or other entities aim to achieve zero fossil carbon existence. Typically refers to a reduction of the carbon emissions associated with electricity, industry and transport. (SR15\_AnnexI\_Glossary.pdf ([ipcc.ch](https://www.ipcc.ch)))



## 2. Why a Low Emission Development Strategy?

Fiji developed its Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) in 2018. It aligns to the Paris Agreement, the Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and Fiji's Green Growth Framework and is a living national document to be updated with the latest science and robust national data as improved evidence becomes available.

The overall aim of the LEDS is to enhance Fiji's ability to plan for decarbonisation of its economy in the long-term by providing a framework and a pathway which can be revised and enhanced under Fiji's NDC to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions to 2030 and beyond.

The Fiji LEDS intends to put in place the pathway for implementation of mitigation actions needed to achieve net-zero or net-negative emissions by the year 2050. The mitigation pathways identified in Fiji's LEDS will be sustainable and climate resilient. Additionally, the pathways that have been identified provide synergies with Fiji's adaptation actions.

The Low Emission Development Strategy was developed with the guidance of the LEDS Steering Committee comprising 14 Government ministries and agencies and with technical assistance from the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) and a team of local and international experts.



## 3. What is in the Low Emission Development Strategy?

The Fiji LEDS outlines synergies between low carbon emissions and sustainable economic development till the year 2050. This is a useful tool to achieve Fiji's mitigation targets in its future NDCs. The sectors of the LEDS include waste, on-grid and off-grid electricity, transport (including land, maritime and domestic aviation), agriculture, forestry, and blue carbon (wetlands).

The Fiji LEDS includes:

- potential evolution of the land transport, maritime transport, domestic aviation, off-grid and on-grid electricity, waste, agriculture and forestry and blue carbon sectors in conditional and unconditional business-as-usual scenarios (i.e. in the absence of additional low carbon policies and actions), high ambition scenario and very high ambition scenario;

- identified technically and politically feasible low-carbon development options that have the potential to mitigate GHG emissions growth and enhance sinks and island resilience;
- assessed mitigation potential of low-carbon options, as well as attendant costs;
- proposed policy options and a costed set of short-term, medium-term and long-term actions plan that will be needed to realise the mitigation potential quantified;
- linkages to adaptation and resilience and the social, environmental and economic co-benefits of implementation of the LEDS; and
- proposed monitoring, reporting and verification (MRV) framework which will be aligned to existing government monitoring frameworks.

The total cost of the mitigation actions and strategies underlined in the LEDS has been quantified. This costing provides guidance on the pathways to inform planning and investments aimed at mitigating and adapting to climate change. The practicality and the robustness of the scenarios identified would allow the Government to save costs by avoiding investments that are inconsistent with achieving a low-carbon and sustainable economy. This nature of the Fiji LEDS also ensures that all relevant Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are met.



## 4. Current State of Play

The Fijian Government is now focusing on implementation by capitalising on existing and new partnerships, particularly with the private sector. Fiji's decarbonisation pathways in the LEDS now need to be translated into bankable projects and an enabling environment created that will incentivise public and private sector investment aligned to these targets.

Through the Regional NDC Hub, Fiji has been able to develop the NDC Investment Plan for the Energy Efficiency and Transport (land, maritime, and aviation) sectors. The investment plan analysis and proposed project pipeline identify options for low carbon development and possible financing options. The pipeline will be further developed and will include robust and bankable investment options that can be considered by the public sector, development partners and/or private investors. The proposed options in the NDC Investment Plan have the potential to help Fiji achieve its national greenhouse gas emissions reduction targets and decarbonisation of its economy.



## 5. How should the Low Emission Development Strategy be used?

The central goal of the LEDSD is that Fiji reaches net zero carbon emissions by 2050 across all major sectors of its economy through emissions reduction pathways defined in the LEDSD. To achieve the targets in the LEDSD, public and private investment is required. Fiji's low carbon development priorities present various opportunities for stimulating private sector investments across many sectors of the economy. The LEDSD should act as a guide for future investments by the public and private sector.

Despite commitment by the Fijian Government to allocate a higher proportion of the national budget towards 'climate proofing' the development efforts under the LEDSD, the ability to sustain such allocation will remain a challenge. This is largely due to the huge development burdens of the country, now being exacerbated by the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in budget shortfalls, rising debt, and declining tax revenues. Access to 'additional' and alternative climate finance resources (bilateral, regional or multilateral and private sector resources) is urgently needed to transform development and climate change challenges into tangible investments. It is more critical than ever to develop a resilient economy and communities, who are empowered with the necessary skills to overcome the twin challenges of climate risks and Covid-19 pandemic.



## 6. Examples of projects aligned to the Low Emission Development Strategy

An investment in education and skill development with an increasing working age population, will provide a pool of human resources which is essential for Fiji's low carbon development. The Fijian Government is committed to making the necessary investment from public resources, while encouraging the private sector to also develop capacity for green, low carbon growth. Without this investment from both the public and private sector, the changes needed in mind-sets and skill sets will be hard to achieve.

A copy of Fiji's LEDSD can be accessed online via the link:

[https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fiji\\_Low%20Emission%20Development%20%20Strategy%202018%20-%20202050.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/Fiji_Low%20Emission%20Development%20%20Strategy%202018%20-%20202050.pdf)

Other examples of potential projects that could be developed to reduce GHG and methane emissions in the energy, transport, AFOLU and waste sectors prioritized under LEDSD and according to stakeholder feedback<sup>2</sup> are outlined in Table 1.

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<sup>2</sup>The Fiji Climate Finance Programme is currently under development. As part of this the Fijian Government 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 LEDSD.

**Table 1: Examples of potential interventions and projects for the energy, transport, AFOLU and wastes sectors.**

Objectives	Identified Interventions from NAP and LEDS	Strategic Plans Targets (2019-2022)
<p><b>1. Electricity</b> Increase share of electricity generation from renewable energy sources Ministry of Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review operation of hydropower and other renewable energy facilities to maximize output under new climate conditions</li> <li>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</li> <li>Implement a research, data collection and investment identification program to accelerate the renewable energy share in electricity generation</li> <li>Increase the resiliency of the power system by investigating more diversified and distributed generation options, including mini grids</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 biofuel mills rehabilitated by 2022 Ministry of Infrastructure</li> <li>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</li> <li>1,100 households to have solar home systems installed</li> <li>10 Mini Hydro systems installed</li> <li>Promotion of Lithium Ion Battery Storage for Renewable Energy (NDC Investment Plans)</li> </ul>
<p><b>2. Transport</b> Improved accessibility and connectivity to environmentally sustainable road transport to reduce GHG emissions Ministry of Transport</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>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</li> <li>Develop waste management standards for the transport industry to ensure waste is either reused or disposed/incinerated in a manner which is not harmful to human health or the health of the environment and ensure adequate resources for enforcement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrades to 450km sealed and 1425km unsealed roads (climate upgrade portion)</li> <li>Lautoka zero carbon transport strategy (NDC Investment Plan)</li> <li>Whole of Lifecycle Vehicle Program (NDC Investment Plan)</li> <li>Active Land Transport Infrastructure Upgrade (NDC Investment Plan)</li> <li>Electric Vehicle Network Development (NDC Investment Plan)</li> <li>Congestion Reduction Measures (NDC Investment Plan)</li> <li>Bus Network Transport System (NDC Investment Plan)</li> </ul>

**Table 1: Examples of potential interventions and projects for the energy, transport, AFOLU and wastes sectors.**

Objectives	Identified Interventions from NAP and LEDS	Strategic Plans Targets (2019-2022)
<p><b>3. Agriculture</b> Increased awareness and adoption by farmers of sustainable resource management and climate-smart agriculture practices to enhance carbon sink and reduce methane emissions and local pollution</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with diverse and inclusive stakeholders to ensure farmers (including disadvantaged groups) have inclusive access to hazard maps and climate information services, via a range of information communication technology in common vernacular to support inclusive participatory scenario planning at the local level</li> <li>• Assess farm community and sectoral attitudes to climate adaptation actions in agriculture to develop appropriate and inclusive education and awareness programs, extension services, farmer field schools, and institutionalized peer group systems that stimulate the take-up of agriculture aligned with adaptation actions</li> <li>• Enhance support for irrigation schemes, which support agricultural diversification and mitigate increased drought and flooding</li> <li>• Strengthen Fiji’s disaster preparedness efforts in the agriculture sector by encouraging agronomy practices, climate-based crop planning, and the protection, breeding, and cultivation of traditional and improved seed varieties (including both plant genetics and open pollinated), cultivars and livestock breeds; advancing research and nurseries; and enhance the resilience of crop and livestock breeding infrastructure and supply systems, as well as seed and food storage facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 500 farmers trained in climate-smart agriculture practices</li> <li>• 25% increase in numbers of farmers adopting organic production with secure market access</li> <li>• 150 Ministry of Agriculture staff trained in climate smart agriculture practices and sustainable resource management</li> <li>• 20% increase in adoption rate by farmers of climate adaptation programs</li> <li>• 250 hectares of land adopting and practicing climate resilient agriculture</li> </ul>
<p><b>4. Forestry</b> Sustainable Forest Management Frameworks and Implementation to enhance carbon sequestration and sink Ministry of Forestry</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expand ‘Tree-Planting Campaign’ to encourage voluntary tree and/or mangrove planting activities, which are to be conducted as part of school curriculums, community stewardship, and the Corporate Social Responsibility</li> <li>• Strengthen forest resource management frameworks in support of legislative and policy imperatives, and to create sustainable assets with appropriate controls. Focus includes Forest Management, Watershed, Coastal areas, and Soil/ Land conservation</li> <li>• Enhance implementation/ adoption of Sustainable Forest Management practices (maintaining and enhancing multiple forest values through human interventions)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 2017 to 2030</li> <li>• Develop Forest Monitoring Systems by 2025 Ministry of Forestry</li> <li>• Near completion of the 30 million trees in 15 years campaign, including 4 million trees planted by 2022</li> <li>• Decrease emissions from logging in natural forests (forest degradation) by 1%</li> <li>• Reduce emissions from deforestation by 10%</li> </ul>

**Table 1: Examples of potential interventions and projects for the energy, transport, AFOLU and wastes sectors.**

Objectives	Identified Interventions from NAP and LEDS	Strategic Plans Targets (2019-2022)
<p><b>5. Waste Management</b> Systemic management of waste and wastewater projects to reduce methane emissions and local pollution by / through Ministry of Infrastructure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct a comprehensive assessment of all of Fiji's water and sanitation infrastructure (both small- and large-scale, government-operated or community-operated) and resources in order to meet current and future needs in light of climate change projections. The assessment will identify instances where infrastructure needs to be upgraded, replaced or relocated. The assessment is also to provide recommendations for (rural) communities not currently connected to reticulated or government-operated systems</li> <li>• Upgrade, repair, relocate and build new water and sanitation infrastructure that is appropriate for future needs of all community members and able to withstand predicted future climate risks. These new infrastructure developments are to be guided by the comprehensive assessment and must meet minimum standards</li> <li>• Develop, implement and enforce building codes, zoning, and minimum standards for the construction and management of new water and sanitation infrastructure. Government agencies must be required and empowered with the authority to enforce safety and resilience standards</li> <li>• Endorse and implement a comprehensive waste management plan for rural and urban areas to reduce the impact of pollution on terrestrial and marine ecosystems and the resilience upon landfill as a waste management option</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Operational composting facility and collection systems in Suva and Nausori</li> <li>• Development of waste transfer station that can separate and divert organic waste from Naboro Landfill</li> <li>• Develop and implement a national policy to reduce, reuse, and recycle and a national collection system for recycling</li> <li>• Formulation and adoption of national WASH standards that include indicators and metrics on climate resilience and adaptation</li> <li>• Extension of sewerage systems in flood prone areas</li> <li>• Relining of sewer treatment ponds in coastal areas</li> </ul>





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