



FIJI CLIMATE CHANGE BULLETIN

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

MARCH 2023, ISSUE # 1



The Coral Reef Rescue Initiative (CRRI), led by WWF with technical support from University of Queensland, in Bali, Indonesia

CLIMATE CHANGE DIVISION

ROLE OF DIVISION

The Climate Change Division (CCD) under the Office of the Prime Minister is the responsible national agency for addressing climate change issues in Fiji. The CCD is guided by the Climate Change Act 2021 and the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) 2018-2030, and works in collaboration with Government agencies, Non-government organizations, regional and international agencies and development partners.

The CCD stream of work includes:

- Climate Change Adaptation;
- Climate Change Mitigation;
- Oceans; and
- Climate Finance.

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MESSAGE FROM THE PERMANENT SECRETARY

Dear Readers,

On behalf of the Climate Change Division under the Office of the Prime Minister, we welcome you to the first edition of the Fiji Climate Change Bulletin. Through this news bulletin we will share current and credible information on Fiji's Climate Change legislation, policies, strategies, plans, projects, reports and events.

Fiji is facing significant climate risks, such as severe flooding, tropical cyclones, sea level rise, and saltwater intrusion. Fiji's Climate Vulnerability Assessment (CVA) estimates that tropical cyclones and floods currently cause average losses of more than FJD 500 million per year – an amount equal to 5 percent of national annual Gross Domestic Product. As such, Fiji's climate adaptation needs far outweigh the current levels of climate finance mobilised. At the same time, while Fiji's national Carbon dioxide (CO₂) equivalent emissions make up a mere 0.006% of global emissions, the Government of Fiji and other non-government stakeholders are taking steps to achieve decarbonization. Fiji has developed its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) Implementation Roadmap to achieve its NDC targets and a Low Emissions Development Strategy that outlines a clear path towards a net-zero future by 2050.

Obtaining external support is essential to achieve Fiji's goals for mitigating and adapting to climate change. One of the primary external sources of support is the Green Climate Fund (GCF), along with other entities that have already made contributions and will continue to do so in the future. The Division has also established a collaboration platform known as the Sector Working Groups (SWGs) to support coordination and communication of climate action and finance between itself, the Fiji Government and non-government stakeholders.

The Fiji Climate Change Portal and National Designated Authority (NDA) Portal helps to maintain strong stakeholder engagement with an interest in climate finance and facilitate a clear process through which they can stay engaged with the Government processes, strengthen their knowledge and capacities, and build partnerships with a variety of stakeholders. The NDA Portal aims to also support capacity building to design, develop and submit high quality climate change and development project proposals and enable feedback between the NDA and all stakeholders.

This newsletter is part of our engagement with the sector working groups and the broader public to provide updates on the ongoing work in different divisions of the CCD, which includes Adaptation, Mitigation, Oceans and Climate Finance. In the 2023-2024 financial year, CCD will prioritize guiding the enactment of the Climate Change Act 2021, which will provide a crucial legal mandate for Fiji's commitment to climate change ambitions, plans, and targets. It sets forth the legal framework to enable the country's mitigation, adaptation and disaster risk management actions. The Act establishes some important channels of enhancing climate change initiatives such as the National Climate Change Coordination Committee, the National Adaptation Plan Steering Committee, the Fiji Adaptation Registry, the Fiji Taskforce on the Relocation and Displacement of Communities Vulnerable to the Impacts of Climate Change, and the National Ocean Policy Steering Committee.

Also under the requirements set by the Climate Change Act, Ministries have nominated their respective focal points. This is also part of our engagement opportunity as these focal points will help to provide a consistent point of contact for socializing new developments made under the act, sharing new guidelines, and will serve as a means to pass on information on important climate financing opportunities. In addition, the focal points are responsible for promoting the objectives and principles of this Act within their Ministry.

We now invite you to read this newsletter and feel free to share within your networks and communities.

Thank you

Mr. Pita Wise

Acting. Permanent Secretary, Office of the Prime Minister

NAP STEERING COMMITTEE



The Climate Change Division (CCD) convened the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) Steering Committee Meeting for the presentation of the NAP Progress Review Report which highlighted some of the successes and failures in the implementation of the National Adaptation Plan during its 5-year tenure (2018–2023). It was an opportunity of the NAP Steering Committee members to discuss areas that needed improvements on and to be the prioritized when updating the National Adaptation Plan this year.

On the second day, the NAP SC was presented on the potential design, purpose, and functionality of the National Adaptation Registry. The National Adaptation Registry is established under section 73 of the Climate Change Act, which will be the data base for adaptation projects and programmes that have been implemented throughout the years in Fiji, to assist government ministries and stakeholders with informed decision making, knowledge sharing, and avoidance of the duplication of work.



TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP

FIJI TASKFORCE ON RELOCATION AND DISPLACEMENT OF COMMUNITIES (FTRDC)



The Climate Change Division convened the first meeting of the TwG of the FTRDC in 2023. In the meeting, government stakeholders were updated on the Planned Relocation Guideline (PRG) Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), the Comprehensive Risk and Vulnerability Assessment Methodology (CRVAM), and the Monitoring, Evaluation, Reporting, Learning (MERL) tool. Members of the TwG also shared the changes in their governance structure and updates on ongoing and incoming projects that would be relevant to the scope of work of the FTRDC.

COMMUNITY VISIT



the German Ambassador to Fiji HE Nicole Menzenbach which was jointly organized by CCD and the GIZ Human Mobility in the Context of Climate Change (HMCCC) Project.

The village of Vuniniudrovu, in the Province of Naitasiri, has been facing riverbank erosion as it flanked on both sides by the river. Due to the village's high flood vulnerability and risk, the community have sought community relocation.



Discussion with the members of the community highlighted many homes have been dismantled and rebuilt inland over the past years as the constant inundation and erosion risked the destruction of their homes completely. A village with more than 4 aisles of houses have now been reduced to only 2 aisles as the river slowly eats away the riverbank.

Discussion is currently ongoing with the German government for their support in the relocation of Vuniniudrovu.

The Climate Change Division accompanied the Assistant Minister for Rural and Maritime Development and Disaster Management, the Commissioner - Central Division, and officials from the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs to a site visit with The German Special Envoy to the Pacific, HE Beate Grzeski and

AGRICULTURAL INVENTORY CAPABILITY BUILDING PROGRAMME



New Zealand's Ministry of Primary Industries in collaboration with the New Zealand Agricultural Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Research Centre (AgResearch) invited Fiji and Samoa as the first two Pacific Island Countries to New Zealand as part of their Agricultural Inventory Capability building Programme to support the PICs efforts in the development of their respective agricultural GHG Inventory.

The Mitigation team of the Climate Change Division together with representatives from the Ministry of Agriculture's Livestock Division represented Fiji at the programme. Through this Programme, Fiji representatives were able to:

- Experience aspects of how New Zealand manages its own Inventory reporting process;
- Visit research centres and see first-hand research into agricultural emission factors;
- Participated in technical workshop and in a policy workshop with other international collaborators; and
- Attend the New Zealand Agricultural Climate Change Conference.

CABINET ENDORSEMENT OF INITIATIVE FOR CLIMATE ACTION TRANSPARENCY (ICAT) PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The Mitigation unit through support from the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency (ICAT) secretariat and in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture has implemented the ICAT project in Fiji. The project aimed to strengthen Fiji's agricultural GHG inventory and build national capacity in doing so.

In March 2023, Cabinet endorsed the following ICAT project deliverables for adoption by the Ministry of Agriculture:

- Guidance Document and Manual for the Fiji Agriculture Livestock Emissions
- Guidance Document and Manual for the Fiji Agriculture Rice Cultivation Emissions
- Agriculture Policy Assessment for Fiji
- National Inventory Systems Guideline for the Agriculture Sector

The ICAT project has helped to firstly, build a shared understanding and awareness on the role and obligations of the Ministry of Agriculture under the Climate Change Act particularly on providing GHG data from the agriculture sector. Secondly it has enhanced domestic capabilities through hands-on inventory and policy impact training of Ministry of Agriculture staff as well as national experts to an extent that no external support would be needed to compile agriculture inventory in the future.

The ICAT project deliverables are a stepping stone to fully operationalize Fiji's GHG reporting system and deliver on Fiji's commitments under the Paris Agreement.

CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE FOR TRANSPARENCY (CBIT) PROJECT



The Mitigation Unit is committed to addressing the challenges of climate change through various initiatives, including capacity building for transparency. Transparency is a critical component of the Paris Agreement, and Fiji recognizes the importance of building capacity to ensure effective monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions.

One of the major projects the Mitigation Unit is implementing is the Capacity Building Initiative for Transparency (CBIT) project together with Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI) through the support from United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The aim of the project is to strengthen Institutional arrangements to enable regular transparent reporting on NDC implementation and National GHG inventory, develop an IT based GHG Inventory Systems and MRV framework for climate actions and support received. The successful completion of the CBIT project will eventually streamline all the information related to climate change mitigation from relevant stakeholders and improve our reporting requirements.

In February 2023, the unit held its first Project Management Unit's (PMU) meeting bringing all coordinators, consultants and experts to discuss the work plan of the project going forward.

Simultaneously, the Unit has also been having consultation with teaching institutes to enable implementation of one of the outputs of the project; Development of Curriculum on GHG inventory and MRV. The consultation are ongoing and as are other outputs of the projects.

Overall, the Mitigation Unit's efforts towards climate change mitigation are crucial for Fiji's sustainable future. The successful implementation of the CBIT project and the development of the GHG inventory and MRV will not only benefit Fiji but also serve as a model for other countries in the Pacific region facing similar challenges.

FIJI'S ROLE IN MOBILIZING THE OCEAN COMMUNITY FOR CLIMATE ACTION AT COP27



The ocean community played a significant role in the discussions and negotiations at COP27, which took place in Sharm el-Sheikh in Egypt. Fiji played a crucial role in mobilizing the ocean community to ensure that the ocean-climate change nexus was adequately addressed within the UNFCCC framework.

Fiji, being a Pacific Island nation, is acutely aware of the impact of climate change on the oceans and its communities. During COP27, Fiji was determined to ensure that the voices and concerns of the ocean community were heard and acted upon at the conference.

Fiji played a large part in steering the conversation during the Friends of the Ocean meetings that were held along the margins of intense negotiations in Sharm el-Sheikh. More than 300 ocean themed events took place over the 2 weeks of COP27 with several declarations being made as well.

A final outcome was reached through the decision text and although not progressive it did assist in creating a governance structure of sorts for the ocean-climate change dialogue by calling for the nomination of two (2) co-chairs to better coordinate discussions and choose relevant themes and above all ensuring that the dialogue was a party driven process.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

This infographic publication provides a comprehensive overview of the key activities related to the climate change, organized into different main streams: adaptation, mitigation, oceans, finance and Drua Incubator programme. The infographic guide is designed to be accessible to a broad audience, including policymakers, educators, students, and members of the general public.



Stream 1: Adaptation- this stream focuses on facilitating institutional coordination for adaptation actions to accelerate resource mobilization, and deliver effective and sustainable adaptation options for all Fijians. It focuses on thematic areas including planned relocation of climate-impacted communities, Comprehensive Risk Vulnerability Assessments, National Adaptation Registry, Adaptation Surveys and Adaptation Impact Analysis.

Stream 2: Mitigation- this stream highlights the importance of reducing greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate the impacts of climate change. The unit works in collaboration with relevant line ministries of the government to implement climate change mitigation initiatives and action across all sectors of Fiji's economy.



Stream 3: Oceans- this stream focuses on the commitment to conserve and ensure sustainable use of ocean and marine resources. The infographic provides examples of solutions to protect and restore ocean ecosystems, such as reducing plastic pollution and supporting sustainable fishing practices.

Stream 4: Finance- this stream highlights the role of finance in addressing the climate crisis. This unit also holds the responsibility as the secretariat to the Fiji Rural Electrification Fund (FREF) initiative, which aims to be a sustainable venture providing clean and affordable electricity to outer and rural communities.



Stream 5: The Drua Incubator ('DI') is a specialized sub-unit within the Climate Change Division, which was established during Fiji's reign as COP23 Presidency. It has so far received financial support from the Government of Luxembourg to support the institutionalisation of the incubator as a tool for leveraging financial innovation and private sector engagement to address climate change challenges in Fiji and the Pacific.