



National Carbon Market Strategy Roadmap Consultation Workshop II





Climate Change Division

Recap of workshop 1



Overview and Purpose

What is being done?

The Fiji Government is currently developing a National Carbon Market Strategy Roadmap (NCMS).

What is its purpose?

The NCMS will provide guidance to multiple stakeholders including Government, communities and the private sector in understanding and assessing opportunities in the Carbon Market Space.

Who is leading?

Government of Fiji with support from the Australian Government and the Carbon Market Institute



Presentations

<u>objective</u>	Presentation Titles	Organization	Speaker
Intent	Introduction to Fiji's Proposed Carbon Market Roadmap	Climate Change Division	Ms. Ranjila Singh – Mitigation Specialist
Information Sharing	Introduction to Carbon Markets	Climate Change Division	Ms. Jeanette Mani, Carbon Market Consultant
Activity Profile 1	Fiji's Blue Carbon Project	Conservation International	Mr. Nikheel Sharma
Activity Profile 2	Fiji's National REDD+ Programme	Ministry of Forestry	Mr. Ijaj Tulele
Activity Profile 3	The Improved Cook Stove Program in Fiji	Kasabias	Mr. Dwain Qalovaki
Activity Profile 4	Drawa Block Forest Conservation Project	Live and Learn	Mr. Beato Dulunagio
Prospective view on approaches and activities	Overview of carbon market opportunities and risks in Fiji	Climate Change Division	Mr. Daniel Lund
Global Policy Context	Carbon Markets and the Paris Agreement	UNFCCC	Mr. Jens Radschinski
Regional /Strategic Context	Regional Cooperation and Strategic Priorities	Climate Change Division	Ms. Jeanette Mani
National Policy and Legal Context	Fiji's Climate Change Policies, Plans, and Strategies + Overview of Part 10 of the Climate Change Act	Climate Change Division	Mr. Prashant Chandra Mr. Daniel Lund
National Legal Context	Leases and Benefit Sharing	iTaukei Land Trust Board	Ms. Rosvann Vunibakar



Breakout session 1

Group A – Nature Based Solutions



Breakout session 1

Group A – Nature Based Solutions

- Participants discussed the need to increase understanding of potential nature-based solutions (NbS) that could be effectively applied in Fiji.
- Stakeholders noted the need to improve efforts, both direct and indirect, to safeguard coral reef systems and interlinkages between mangrove protection.
- While land disputes maybe a risk to the progression of NbS projects, there is an opportunity for NbS to help protect land and the interests of landowners.



- It is unclear the degree to which blue carbon sequestration in Fiji can be increased.
- Data gaps and the need to conduct more extensive assessments on the ground mean that it is difficult to understand the overall scope and potential offered by carbon markets.
- While land disputes maybe a risk to the progression of NbS projects, there is an opportunity for NbS to help protect land and the interests of landowners.



Group B – Land Management and Agriculture



Group B – Land Management and Agriculture

- Fiji has significant undeveloped and biodiversity-rich land. There is opportunity to engage in carbon offset projects, access payments for ecosystem services, and design innovative solutions such as biodiversity credits.
- The carbon markets could help Fiji to rehabilitate mining areas, increase afforestation and reforestation, and enhance existing forested areas.
- In a best-case scenario, carbon markets could help incentivize more robust land-use planning, agricultural zoning, and clearer guidance on land-use activities.



- Despite the guidance and incoming work to develop the regulations under Part 10 of the Climate Change Act there remains some concern around carbon sequestration property rights.
- Standardised lease conditions that support and incentivize conservation activities and carbon offset projects are required.
- Many forests are already protected or under conservation lease – it is not clear how to create additionality in many cases where protection exists.
- Land-use planning regulations are not fit for purpose at this stage.



Breakout session 2

Exploring carbon market options and strategic priorities

Group 1

- Awareness raising and education / capacity building is a key priority.
- A key consideration, noting the expertise and potentially unbalanced reliance on foreign organizations, is the need to develop local capacity to develop projects.
- Despite interest in carbon market engagement more work to identify where donor funding is best targeted to support effective engagement is required.

Group 2

- It is important to draw on the experience of partners and other parties to ensure Fiji does not need to 'reinvent the wheel' when it comes to various elements of carbon market engagement – for example use of existing registries.
- The development of carbon market regulations and standards will be the most effective way to define Fiji's priorities based on needs and context.
- Fiji needs to pre-empt strategies for managing both voluntary and compliance-based carbon markets.
- Carbon price volatility remains an inhibiting factor and prevents strategic planning and assessment.
- Ensuring integrity must be the foundational principle of Fiji's approach.



Plenary

- Carbon market mechanisms can support communities and create co-benefits however because Fiji has a low-volume offering when it comes to potential and additionality – the focus must be on quality, high pricing, and recognition of co-benefits (The Fiji Water of Carbon Credits).
- Carbon credits are a commodity that we must explore – however they are volatile, subject to changes in demand and price fluctuations.
- Leveraging local expertise (local consultants, universities, institutions) is a key means to ensure approaches are driven from the bottom up and appropriately integrated with Fiji's existing priorities.
- Facilities that consume a large proportion of energy in Fiji such as EFL, WAF infrastructure and national Airports offer low-hanging fruit for external investment. This investment should be guided by the LEDS.



Key messages

Communities must access Co-benefits and benefits must consider trade-offs.

Fiji has experience with carbon market concepts and modalities; however, these efforts have been focused on nature-based solutions and particular approaches.

Communication challenges mean engagement must be carefully considered and planned.

Stakeholders must be aware of the conceptual challenges and uncertainties

The Implications of Nature-Based Carbon Market Projects will require stakeholders to carefully assess tradeoffs.

Fiji's Market Engagement must consider energy sector transition opportunities.





Thank You