



# **Ministry of Environment and Climate Change**

**2025**

## **Achievement Report**

***"Looking Back at a Year of  
Environmental and Climate Service"***

# Ministerial Foreword



**Hon. Mosese Bulitavu**  
**Minister for Environment**  
**and Climate Change**

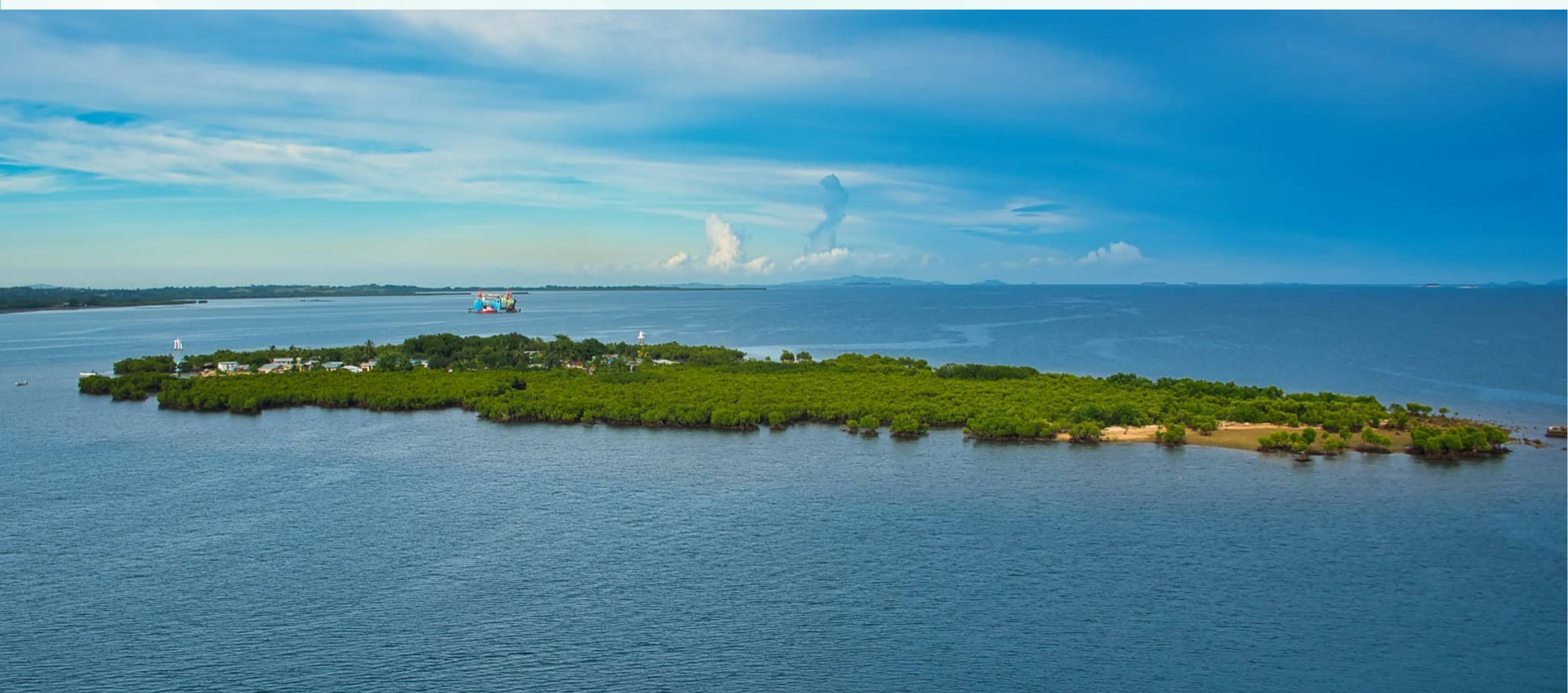
In 2025, Fiji reaffirmed a clear and powerful principle: environmental and climate leadership must deliver tangible results for people, communities, and the nation. Under the Coalition Government, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change focused on strengthening the foundations of environmental and climate governance through practical, results-oriented action. This work was guided by the National Development Plan 2025–2029 and Vision 2050, ensuring that environmental protection, climate resilience, and sustainable resource management are embedded within Fiji’s broader development pathway.

Throughout 2025, the Ministry strengthened laws, restored institutional discipline, and mobilized climate and environmental finance at scale, contributing directly to national priorities on economic resilience, people empowerment, and good governance. Key achievements included modernizing legislation, unlocking climate and environmental finance, advancing regional and global leadership from a Pacific perspective, and enhancing service delivery across Fiji.

Environmental challenges do not pause, and neither can our response. Building on the strong foundations laid in 2025, our ongoing responsibility is to deepen implementation, sustain momentum, and ensure that progress continues to deliver lasting benefits for present and future generations.

This publication presents a consolidated account of the Ministry’s achievements across governance reform, financing, capacity development, regional and international engagement, and service delivery, reflecting a disciplined, outcome-focused approach to environmental stewardship in service of all Fijians

I commend the Ministry’s leadership, staff, partners, and communities for their dedication throughout the year, and I am confident that the path charted in 2025 positions Fiji strongly for the years ahead.



# Institutional Governance and Policy Reform

Significant progress was achieved in strengthening Fiji's environmental governance framework, restoring institutional coherence and modernizing policy instruments throughout 2025. The Ministry undertook comprehensive reforms to ensure that environmental protection operates within a robust legal and institutional architecture.



## Legislative Modernisation

Amendment of the Environment Management Act 2005 completed within nine months, demonstrating responsive governance.



## Climate Change Act Implementation

Commencement of 13 of 17 Parts of the Climate Change Act 2021, operationalising climate governance.



## Council Reconvened

National Environment Council reconvened after a five-year hiatus, restoring collaborative decision-making.

## Strategic Planning Achievements

- Completion of the Ministry's Strategic Development Plan and Action Plan
- Finalisation of draft Mangrove Management Regulations
- Development of five sector-specific Environmental Impact Assessment guidelines
- Finalisation of Fiji's Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0)

## Framework Development

- Launch of Fiji's Sustainable Finance Roadmap
- Development of Fiji's Green Taxonomy
- Review of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- Finalization of Fiji's Blue Economy Framework

Hon. Minister for Environment and Climate Change also supported the Hon. Prime Minister and Fiji's delegation at the 80th Session of the United Nations General Assembly, advancing Fiji's NDC 3.0, which was subsequently launched at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

Further, the **operationalization of Standard Operating Procedures on Planned Relocation** represents a particularly significant achievement, safeguarding dignity, culture, and livelihoods for communities facing climate displacement. National consultations on the National Integrated Waste Management Strategy and the review of the Litter Act in partnership with Municipal Councils demonstrated the Ministry's commitment to inclusive, evidence-based policy development.

# Climate and Environmental Financing

The Ministry secured extraordinary levels of climate and environmental finance in 2025 through strong collaboration with development partners, multilateral institutions, regional organizations, and implementing agencies. The Ministry acknowledges with appreciation the collective support and confidence of all partners whose contributions have enabled meaningful progress in advancing Fiji's climate and environmental priorities.

In total, **FJD 142.7 million** was secured for environmental protection, climate adaptation, mitigation, and technical assistance. This level of financing represents a transformational shift in Fiji's capacity to deliver climate action at scale, strengthening national implementation systems and enabling large-scale project delivery across priority sectors.

**\$61.4M**

## Biodiversity and Nature Project

Climate Investment Fund

**\$37.5M**

## Green Climate Fund

Two proposals approved

1. Advancing EW4ALL
2. Adapting Tuna Dependent PICS

**12**

## Project Concept Notes

Valued at FJD 44.69 million

**\$142.7M**

## Total Climate Finance Secured

Environmental protection, adaptation, and mitigation funding secured

## Budget Support and Funding Partnerships



### Australian Support

FJD 35.2 million secured for the Fiji Climate Adaptation Programme, strengthening resilience across vulnerable communities.



### New Zealand Partnership

FJD 6.5 million received to support community relocation, ensuring dignified transitions for climate-affected populations.



### European Union Funding

FJD 7.9 million first-tranche funding supporting implementation of the Climate Change Act 2021.

The delivery of Fiji's first CROC-funded community relocation project in Nabavatu set a national precedent, demonstrating effective implementation of planned relocation protocols. Additional significant achievements included FJD 8.8 million secured from the Bezos Earth Fund for Marine Spatial Planning; FJD 604,920 for Fiji's first approved Loss and Damage project in Macuata Province; and FJD 675,000 secured for three vulnerable communities through the Community Climate Adaptation Facility.

Multiple grants were secured for biodiversity conservation, waste management, circular economy initiatives, invasive species control, and ozone protection — reflecting the Ministry's comprehensive approach to environmental challenges. The diversity of funding sources and project types demonstrates both the confidence international partners place in Fiji's delivery capacity and the Ministry's strategic ability to align national priorities with global finance mechanisms.

In parallel, 2025 marked a significant milestone in regional climate finance leadership through the establishment and advancement of the Pacific Resilience Facility (PRF). Fiji played a central role in advancing the PRF, including securing donor pledges announced in Honiara as part of its Pacific Climate Champion role. Progress on PRF mobilisation and partner engagement was further updated and reinforced during COP30, strengthening regional momentum towards a Pacific-led, self-financing resilience mechanism.

# Regional and Global Leadership

Fiji continued to exercise principled leadership regionally and internationally throughout 2025, amplifying Pacific priorities in global environmental decision-making. The nation's diplomatic efforts ensured that the unique vulnerabilities and perspectives of Small Island Developing States remained central to international climate and environmental governance.



## Hosting of Regional Forums

Sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific — the first held in the Pacific, bringing global attention to regional priorities



## Global Resolution Leadership

Leading and securing adoption of a global resolution on coral reef climate resilience at UNEA-7, protecting critical marine ecosystems.



## Asia-Pacific Representation

Chair of the Asia Pacific Region for UNEA-7 and appointed Vice-President of the Bureau by the Asia Pacific Group



## Ratification of BBNJ

Fiji ratified the BBNJ Agreement, reinforcing its leadership in global ocean governance and the protection of marine biodiversity beyond national jurisdiction.

## Historic Firsts for Pacific Leadership

Fiji achieved several historic firsts in 2025, becoming the first Pacific Small Island Developing State member of the NDC Partnership Steering Committee and the first PSIDS member and co-chair of the CIF Strategic Climate Fund Trust Fund Committee. These positions provide unprecedented influence over climate finance architecture and ensure Pacific perspectives shape global resource allocation.

In 2025, Fiji's regional and global leadership was further strengthened through the leadership roles undertaken by the Minister for Environment and Climate Change, Hon. Mosese Bulitavu, who served as Chair of the Sixth Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific (AP6) and as Head of Delegation for Fiji to the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC-3) and the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP30).

Leadership also extended beyond formal diplomatic channels. Through consistent, principled advocacy, the Ministry elevated discussions around loss and damage, climate justice, and the special circumstances facing Small Island Developing States. The Ministry's strategic engagement ensured that Fiji's voice, and by extension, the Pacific's voice resonated in forums where critical decisions about climate finance, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development are made.

The Ministry also played a key role in elevating Pacific values and identity in global climate and ocean discourse. In 2025, Fiji supported the endorsement of the Prime Minister's *Ocean of Peace* concept at the Pacific Leaders Meeting in Honiara, reinforcing a collective Pacific narrative grounded in *Uto ni Yalo* — the spirit of the ocean — and the voyaging heritage that links ocean stewardship, climate responsibility, and SIDS leadership on the global stage.



# Capacity Building and Workforce Development

Investment in people and institutions remained central to the Ministry's delivery throughout 2025. Recognising that sustainable environmental governance requires skilled professionals equipped with contemporary knowledge and tools, the Ministry implemented comprehensive training programmes across multiple technical domains.



## Technical Skills Development

Training delivered for refrigeration and fumigation officers, litter enforcement personnel, customs and border protection staff.



## Technology Integration

Certification of Ministry staff in drone operations and monitoring technologies for environmental surveillance.



## Regulatory Expertise

National and divisional training on CITES enforcement, biosafety protocols, and access and benefit-sharing frameworks.

## Building the Next Generation

The Ministry's commitment to developing future environmental leaders manifested through the recruitment of Early Career Ocean Professionals and support for international fellowships. These initiatives ensure that Fiji develops a pipeline of skilled professionals equipped to address emerging environmental challenges with innovative approaches and fresh perspectives.

Community-based composting and waste-reduction initiatives were delivered across all divisions, empowering local communities with practical skills to manage waste sustainably. This grassroots capacity building ensures that environmental stewardship extends beyond government institutions into households and neighbourhoods throughout Fiji.



***"Investment in people is investment in Fiji's environmental future. Every trained officer, every certified professional, every empowered community member becomes an agent of positive environmental change."***  
***Permanent Secretary - Dr. Sivendra Michael***

The comprehensive nature of capacity building — spanning technical skills, regulatory knowledge, emerging technologies, and community engagement — reflects the Ministry's understanding that effective environmental governance requires expertise at every level, from national policy implementation to grassroots community action.

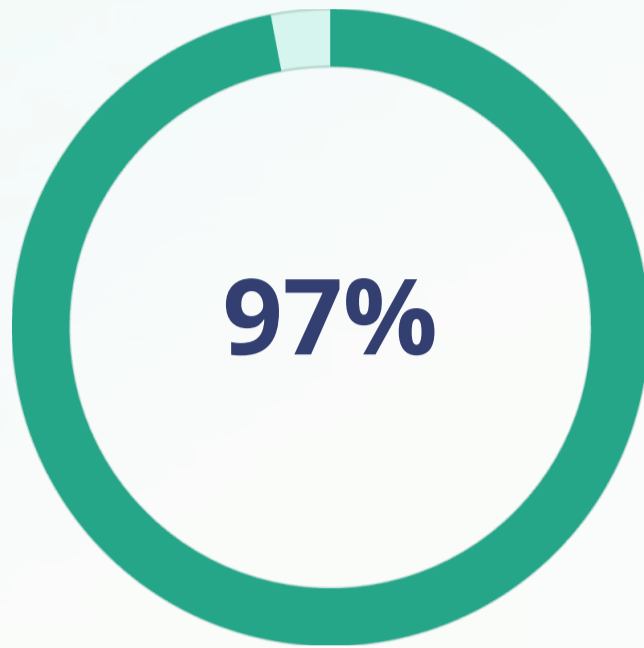
# National Service Delivery and Operations

The Ministry strengthened regulatory efficiency, compliance standards, and service delivery nationwide throughout 2025. Operational excellence in processing permits, managing environmental assessments, and maintaining critical infrastructure ensured that environmental protection remained both rigorous and responsive to national development needs.



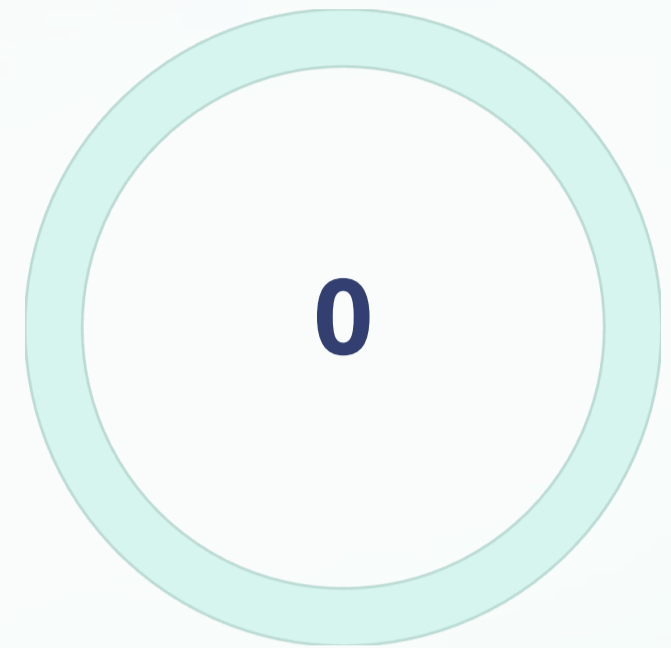
## Permits and Licences

Processed for controlled substances, maintaining regulatory standards



## Recruitment Completion

Strengthening institutional capacity across the Ministry



## EIA Application and ODS / CITES Permit Backlog

Zero backlog maintained through efficient processing systems

## Digital Transformation and Modernisation

The digitization of Environmental Impact Assessment processes through the Building Permit Approval System represented a significant modernization achievement. This technological advancement streamlines regulatory processes, reduces processing times, and enhances transparency for applicants whilst maintaining rigorous environmental standards.

Establishment of a dedicated GIS Unit provided the Ministry with sophisticated spatial analysis capabilities, enabling evidence-based decision-making through advanced mapping and environmental monitoring technologies.

Processing of plastic import permits, waste disposal authorizations, and CITES permits continued efficiently, ensuring that Fiji's regulatory frameworks protect both environmental integrity and facilitate legitimate economic activity. The Ministry's ability to maintain zero backlog in EIA processing whilst handling substantial permit volumes demonstrates institutional discipline and effective resource allocation

## Waste Management and Reporting Excellence

The Ministry managed **114,270 tonnes** of waste at the Naboro Landfill, maintaining critical infrastructure that protects public health and environmental quality. Submission of key national reports to the UNFCCC ensured that Fiji met its international transparency obligations, maintaining credibility in global climate forums.

### Regulatory Processing

Efficient handling of permits, licenses, and environmental assessments

### Digital Integration

Technology-enabled systems for improved service delivery

### Infrastructure Management

Operation of critical environmental facilities and systems

### International Reporting

Timely submission of commitments to global frameworks

Advancement of waste management, pollution control, and circular-economy initiatives positioned Fiji at the forefront of sustainable resource management in the Pacific region. These operational achievements, whilst less visible than major policy reforms or international agreements, form the essential foundation of effective environmental governance — ensuring that regulatory systems function reliably, transparently, and in service of both environmental protection and national development.

# Corporate Excellence and Organisational Performance

The Ministry achieved significant milestones in corporate governance and organisational performance during 2025, demonstrating that environmental leadership requires not only policy ambition but also institutional integrity and operational discipline. These achievements reflect a culture of accountability, transparency, and excellence that permeates all levels of the organisation.



## First Unqualified Audit Opinion

Achievement of the Ministry's first unqualified audit opinion, demonstrating financial integrity, robust internal controls, and adherence to public sector accountability standards.



## Staff Excellence Recognition

Recognition of staff through service excellence awards, celebrating outstanding contributions to environmental stewardship and acknowledging dedication to public service.



## Workforce Strengthening

Completion of 97 per cent of approved recruitment, ensuring the Ministry possesses adequate human resources to deliver its ambitious mandate effectively.



## Foundation of Institutional Credibility

The achievement of an unqualified audit opinion represents more than a technical milestone, it signals to development partners, stakeholders, and the public that the Ministry manages resources with integrity and transparency. This credibility is essential for maintaining confidence in the Ministry's stewardship of substantial climate and environmental finance.

Recognition of staff excellence acknowledges that environmental outcomes are achieved through the dedication, expertise, and commitment of public servants working across diverse functions — from policy development and regulatory compliance to community engagement and international diplomacy. These individuals represent the human foundation of Fiji's environmental leadership.

***"Organisational excellence is not incidental to environmental leadership — it is fundamental. Integrity, accountability, and service to the people of Fiji must characterise every aspect of our work." - Minister for Environment and Climate Change - Hon. Mosese Bulitavu***

The near-complete fulfilment of approved recruitment demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to building institutional capacity aligned with its expanded mandate. A fully staffed Ministry ensures that ambitious policy commitments translate into operational reality, that regulatory functions are discharged consistently, and that Fiji's environmental governance operates at the scale and sophistication required by contemporary challenges.

# International Recognition and Awards

Fiji's environmental leadership earned significant international recognition throughout 2025, with prestigious awards acknowledging both institutional achievements and individual contributions to global environmental governance. These accolades reflect not only past accomplishments but also international confidence in Fiji's continued leadership on climate and environmental issues.

## IUCN Reverse the Red Medal

NBSAP Medal recognising Fiji's comprehensive approach to biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration

## Presidential Medal from France

Medal for Ocean Commitment and Stewardship awarded by the President of France, honouring Pacific ocean leadership

## Pacific Finance Champion

Recognition as Pacific Climate Finance Champion for mobilising unprecedented resources and innovative financing mechanisms

## AOSIS Oceans Champion

Designation as AOSIS Oceans Champion, acknowledging sustained advocacy for marine protection and sustainable ocean governance

## Ministerial Leadership Recognised

The election of Fiji's Minister for Environment to senior leadership roles at UNEA and the Forum of Ministers and Environment Authorities of Asia-Pacific represents extraordinary recognition of both personal leadership and national credibility. These positions provide platforms to shape global environmental agendas and ensure Pacific priorities receive appropriate attention in international forums.

## Community Conservation Excellence

International awards recognised community-based marine conservation initiatives supported by the Ministry, demonstrating that effective environmental governance extends beyond national policy to grassroots action. These awards acknowledge the vital role local communities play in protecting Fiji's extraordinary natural heritage.



The breadth of recognition — spanning biodiversity conservation, ocean stewardship, climate finance, and community-based initiatives — reflects the comprehensive nature of Fiji's environmental leadership. These accolades are not endpoints but acknowledgements of sustained commitment and invitations to continued leadership on the global stage.

*"International recognition affirms that Fiji's approach, combining principled advocacy, practical delivery, and genuine partnership offers a model for environmental leadership that resonates far beyond our shores." - Permanent Secretary - Dr. Sivendra Michael*

# Looking Forward

The year 2025 demonstrated what becomes possible when clear political direction is matched by disciplined institutional delivery. Stronger laws, credible institutions, secured finance, and empowered communities now form the foundation of Fiji's environmental governance. These achievements represent not rhetorical commitments but tangible progress — measurable, verifiable, and consequential for present and future generations.

1

## 2025: Foundation Laid

Governance strengthened, finance mobilised, capacity built, international leadership established

2

## 2026: Deepening Implementation

Translating policy into sustained action, scaling community resilience, maintaining momentum

3

## Beyond: Lasting Legacy

Ensuring progress delivers enduring benefits for people, communities, and ecosystems across Fiji

## The Path Forward

As we enter 2026, the task is not to slow progress but to deepen implementation — ensuring that ambition continues to translate into tangible outcomes for people and ecosystems alike. The foundations established in 2025 provide the platform for sustained delivery, but foundations alone do not constitute completed structures.

Environmental challenges do not pause, and neither can our response. Climate change accelerates, biodiversity faces mounting pressures, and communities require continued support to build resilience. The momentum achieved must be sustained through consistent effort, strategic investment, and unwavering commitment to the principles that guided 2025's achievements.



***"This is delivery. This is responsibility. This is stewardship in action — not as aspiration, but as demonstrated commitment to protecting Fiji's extraordinary natural heritage for those who will inherit it." Minister for Environment and Climate Change - Hon. Mosese Bulitavu***

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change remains committed to integrity, accountability, and service to the people of Fiji. The achievements documented in this publication represent one year in a continuing journey — a journey towards a Fiji where environmental protection and economic development advance together, where climate resilience is embedded in every community, and where stewardship of our natural heritage is recognised not as a constraint but as a foundation for sustainable prosperity.

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Republic of Fiji