



# Fiji Climate Change Newsletter

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## Fiji national climate change country team discusses policy implementation

On May 17 2012, the National Climate Change Country Team (NCCCT) convened at Holiday Inn Suva for its first meeting for the year. The NCCCT is a cabinet endorsed body that comprises of government, non government organisations, development partners and academic personnel, who are tasked with providing guidance and advice on climate change-related issues and initiatives in Fiji.

The then Acting Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Colonel Mason Smith chaired the meeting. Members were briefed on Fiji's National Climate Change Policy and its implementation. The implementation of the policy is coordinated by the Climate Change Unit of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. However, implementation of its various strategies lie largely with the responsible sector ministries. Therefore, an effective reporting and coordinating mechanism is warranted and the

NCCCT provides for such a mechanism. The NCCCT members will review the Terms of Reference of the team to ensure the NCCCT is an effective and efficient body in overseeing the implementation of the climate change policy.

Mr Paula Cirikiyasawa, Principal Economic Planning Officer at the Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics, updated the NCCCT on Fiji's preparation to the Rio 20+ meeting held in Rio de Janeiro in June 2012. Members were encouraged to make submissions to consolidate Fiji's national position to this critical conference. Members were also informed on the Outcomes of the Melanesian Spearhead Group (MSG) Inaugural Environment and Climate Change Minister's meeting that was held in Nadi earlier this year.

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## Fiji participates in 2012 Carbon Expo in Cologne

Fiji participated in the recent Carbon Expo 2012 which was held in Cologne, Germany from the 30th of June to the 1st of July. The Carbon Expo 2012 was described as "the world's leading international Trade Fair and Conference for Emissions Trading, Carbon Abatement Solutions and Clean Technologies".

The event represented an important platform for carbon stakeholders to network and further dialogue on climate change mitigation in a carbon-constrained world. Held annually, the Carbon Expo attracts market players to debate on options for supporting a more aggressive shift to a low-carbon future and also share experiences on the successes and obstacles faced by carbon projects.

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At the 2012 Carbon Expo - Pacific Booth. From left to right: Jesse Benjamin (CDM Coordinator - Vanuatu), Penijamini Lomaloma (MFAIC-Fiji), Brian Phillips (Climate Change Coordinator - Vanuatu), Xianli Zhu (UNEP rep), Manasa Katonivaliku (CMD Coordinator - Fiji).

The Carbon Expo 2012 had two main components 1) the trade fair and 2) the conference. This provided an interface between sellers and buyers of emission rights and their intermediaries. This interaction served to contribute towards a more robust CO<sub>2</sub> (carbon dioxide) market at the global level.

The Fiji expo team included the Deputy Secretary for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Mr. Penijamini Lomaloma and the Climate Change Unit's Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Project Coordinator, Mr. Manasa Katonivaliku. The expo provided Fiji with an opportunity to showcase to the rest of the world initiatives that the country is currently undertaking to contribute towards global efforts to remove greenhouse gases and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This included CDM projects currently under development and Fiji's national Policy on REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation + forest conservation, sustainable management of forests, carbon

stock enhancement). The Fiji team used the opportunity to market Fiji's CDM projects to potential CDM project investors and carbon credit buyers.

The team returned with positive outcomes and innovative ideas on how Fiji can better its participation in the next Carbon Expo 2013 to be held in Barcelona, Spain.

Fiji's participation was funded under the capacity building for the clean development mechanism (CDM) sub-component of the "Capacity Building related to Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Countries" programme.

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## Climate Change is an iTaukei concern

Environmental sustainability is vital to the iTaukei community. The iTaukei community owns 87% of the land and has rights of use to their fishing grounds.

In acknowledgement of the frailty of the environment and to promote the well being, good governance and sustainable development of the iTaukei community, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs made a submission to the iTaukei Affairs Board for the appointment of Environmental Desk officers within the Provincial Councils. The iTaukei Affairs Board endorsed the Ministry's submission in February 2011 and appointed their Senior Assistant Roko Tui's as Environmental Desk Officers.

The Ministry acknowledges that the environment is a collective concern and that efficiency would require iTaukei institutions to implement a holistic approach, hence the Ministry and iTaukei institutions are at the forefront of implementing mitigating initiatives such as the REDD+ Policy and the creation of a National Mangrove Management Plan. In addition the Ministry is supportive of environmental initiatives that promote environmental conservation such as the Ramsar Convention,

with the successful establishment of the Rivers Fiji Project. The "Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance" holds the unique distinction of being the first modern treaty between nations aimed at conserving natural resources. The signing of the Convention on Wetlands took place in 1971 at the small Iranian town of Ramsar. Since then, the Convention on Wetlands has been known as the Ramsar Convention. This is just a few of government environmental initiatives that the Ministry is promoting.

In acknowledgement of the iTaukei link to the 'Vanua', the Ministry will mainstream climate change issues in development planning, and encourage iTaukei Community Disaster planning. In addition, the Ministry, in collaboration with the iTaukei institutions, will endeavour to identify, promote and revive traditional knowledge that will support the iTaukei community to cope with the impacts of climate change.

For more information please contact Ms Loata Vakacegu, Deputy Secretary for the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs: [loata.vakacegu@govnet.gov.fj](mailto:loata.vakacegu@govnet.gov.fj)

# Fiji finalising iTaukei glossary of climate change terms

Fiji has finalised a glossary of climate change terms in the iTaukei (indigenous Fijian) language. After a two-month consultation process, a final stakeholder consultation workshop was held on 14 June 2012 in Suva.

The Fiji National Climate Change Policy identifies the need to develop locally appropriate awareness materials in all common vernaculars. Given their vulnerability to climate change, there is a strong need for awareness raising and capacity development in rural communities. Appropriate tools and approaches are needed to ensure that initiatives are effectively understood and accepted by the local communities. This includes the need to develop materials in the vernacular, as indicated in the national policy.

Fiji currently lacks an official guiding document on climate change terms and phrases in the iTaukei language. This is a grave concern given the increasing number of climate change vernacular materials being disseminated in rural iTaukei communities. Translations are carried out independently and unsystematically. The development of a standard iTaukei glossary of climate change terms will promote standardisation on the use of iTaukei phrases and terms to ensure consistency in the climate change messages being relayed to local communities.

The development of the iTaukei climate change glossary was led by the Fiji Ministry of iTaukei Affairs in partnership with

Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Forestry Department. The process was facilitated by translation experts, Mr Saula Baleikaba and Mrs Asilika Uluilakeba. Stakeholders from government agencies, non-governmental organisations, development partners and the private sector contributed to the development of the glossary. Participants hailed the consultation workshops as very educational and enlightening in terms of broadening their knowledge and understanding not only on climate change terms but on the iTaukei language as well. The interchanges between the technical experts and the language experts when identifying appropriate terminologies created a very conducive and enjoyable learning atmosphere.

Almost 60 climate change related phrases and words are in the glossary. It is anticipated that the iTaukei climate change glossary will be published by the end of July 2012.

The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC)/German International Development Cooperation (GIZ) Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region programme supported the development of the iTaukei glossary. Given Fiji's multi-ethnic society, the development of a Fiji-Hindi climate change glossary is also under discussion.

For more information on the iTaukei climate change glossary, please contact the Director of the Institute of Language & Culture (Ministry of iTaukei Affairs), Mr Pita Tagicakirewa: PTagicakirewa@finance.gov.fj

## Protecting health from climate change

### Piloting Climate Change Adaptation to Protect Human Health (PCCAPHH) in Fiji Project

Analysis undertaken by the PCCAPHH Fiji project shows that communicable diseases in the Ba and Suva medical sub-divisions have the strongest associations with climate variables and conditions, compared to other medical sub-divisions in the country. Specifically, dengue fever in Ba is closely correlated with floods and droughts; diarrhoeal illnesses in Ba are closely correlated with droughts; and diarrhoeal illnesses in Suva are closely correlated with rainfall and minimum temperature.

These results illustrate the sensitivity of disease to too much (flood) and too little (drought) water in the environment. Next steps for the PCCAPHH project include the development and testing of early warning systems, improving data recording and analysis and community adaptation.

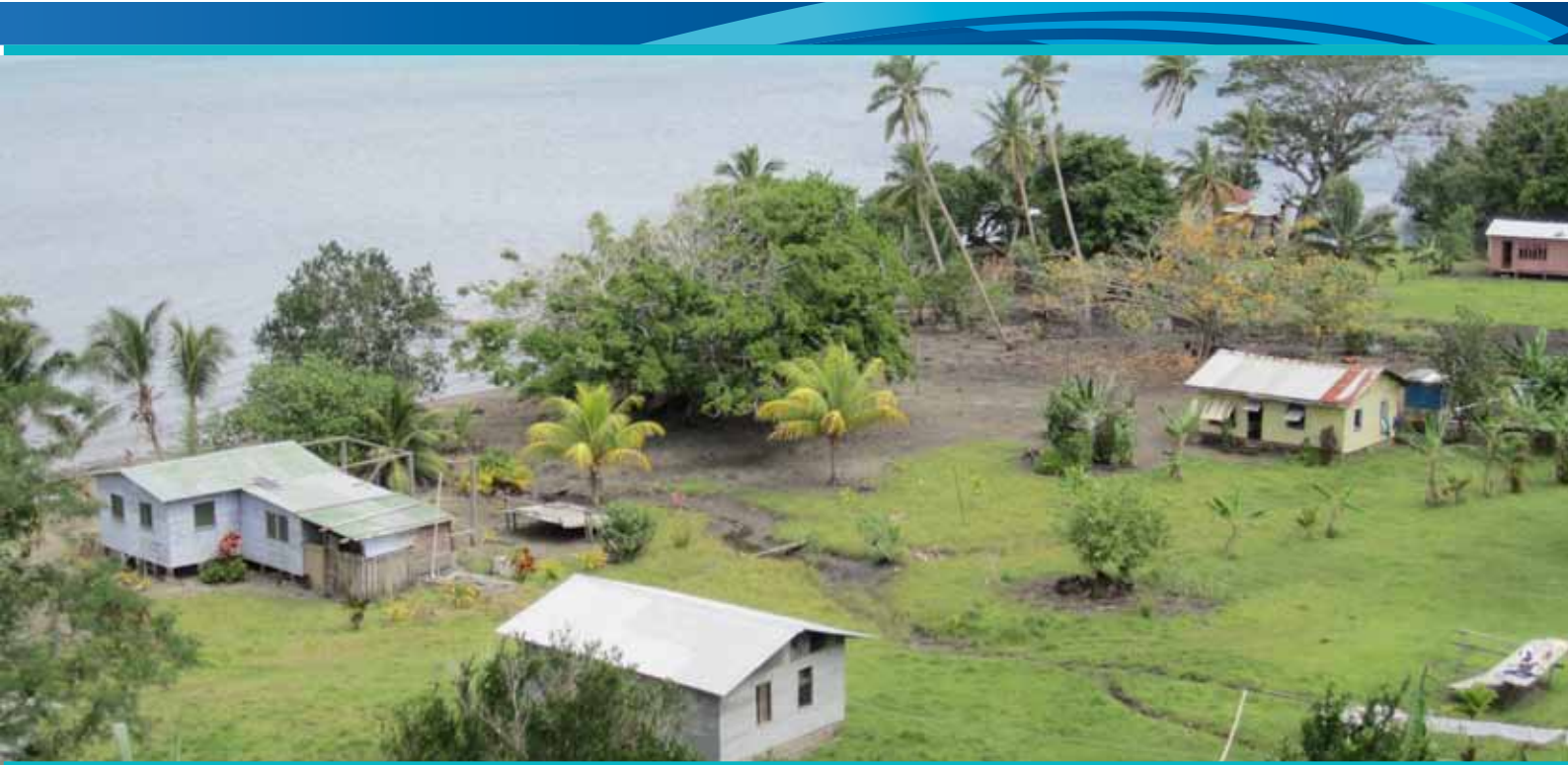
The PCCAPHH project aims to strengthen the capacity of health sector institutions in Fiji to respond effectively to climate sensitive communicable diseases like dengue and typhoid fever, leptospirosis

and diarrhoea. It aims to do this by developing climate-based disease prediction models, building health sector capacity including through health information strengthening and implementing health adaptation activities in pilot sites.

This project is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Health, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations Development Programme, with funding from the Global Environment Facility.

The project is highly relevant to Fiji's National Climate Change Policy. It is implementing Strategy 9 under Objective 1 (Mainstreaming), Strategies 1 & 2 under Objective 3 (Awareness Raising), Strategies 1 & 6 under Objective 4 (Education and Training), and Strategies 7, 8, 9, 12 and 14 under Objective 5 (Adaptation).

For more information contact PCCAPHH Fiji Project Coordinator, Jyotishma Naicker: pccapfh.fiji@gmail.com



## Fiji National REDD+ Policy translated to iTaukei

The Fiji National REDD-plus (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation + conservation, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks) Policy was endorsed by cabinet on 07 December 2010. The REDD+ policy is a first for the Pacific region.

The REDD+ Policy highlights the need to safeguard the rights of resource owners and to promote a transparent governance process to ensure that resource owners are fully informed of all REDD+ issues concerning them. To this end, the translation of policy documents and plans into the iTaukei language is deemed crucial. In addition, the iTaukei resource owners have been calling out for an iTaukei version of the concerned policy.

In May 2012, consultations on the translation of the REDD+ Policy began. Local iTaukei translation expert, Mr Saula Baleikaba was contracted to facilitate the translation. The Language Unit of the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs and the Forestry Department also played key facilitating roles in this process.

Two national stakeholder workshops were held in June to discuss the drafts of the translated policy. Stakeholders coming from various agencies and sectors participated in this process resulting in a more

explicit and articulate translated policy document. All care was taken to ensure that the translation process did not alter the meaning or context of the given statements and phrases in REDD+ Policy. The consultation exercise itself provided a platform for various stakeholders to have a more in-depth understanding of REDD+.

In opening the final consultation workshop at Novotel Hotel in Lami, the acting Conservator of Forests, Samuela Lagataki, told participants, “the success of any project whether it be REDD+ or others will be recognized by how well the concepts are understood. This highlights the importance of clear and unambiguous language that can be easily understood by local communities. How well the iTaukei communities understand the REDD+ Policy is a reflection on how well the translations were made.”

The iTaukei version of the national REDD+ Policy will be finalised by the end of July 2012.

The SPC/ GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region programme supported the development of the iTaukei translation of the Fiji REDD+ Policy. For more information please contact the Fiji National REDD+ Coordinator, Orisi Verebalavu on s0200126457@gmail.com

## Understanding gender roles to reduce climate change vulnerability

A training workshop on gender and climate change was conducted in Suva, Fiji, from 20 to 22 June 2012. Around 40 officers from government ministries and non-governmental organisations in Fiji attended.

In opening the workshop, Colonel Apakuki Kurusiga, the Deputy Chief Executive Officer of the iTaukei Affairs Board, said that sustainable development can only be ensured if

gender issues are integrated into planning and women’s contributions and challenges are taken seriously. The impacts of climate change on different gender groups will need to be better identified since men and women face social, economic and ecological issues and challenges in different ways. This will require them to acquire different capacities and knowledge.

*Continued on page 5*



In his welcoming remarks, Inoke Ratukalou, Acting Director, Land Resources Division of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), said that an important strategy for reducing our vulnerability and enhancing our resilience to the impacts of climate change is to understand the different roles that women, men, youth and children play. Mr Ratukalou told participants that the workshop should enhance their understanding of these different roles and that this understanding can help them identify effective interventions to create opportunities for the improved management of our limited resources in the face of a changing climate.

Lasarusu Turaga, Planning Officer of the Ministry of Fisheries and Forests, said he learned a lot about gender and climate change issues. 'I wouldn't miss an opportunity to attend another similar workshop,' he said.

Speaking on behalf of the participants, Anjanie Paddy of the Prime Minister's Office praised the workshop, saying that the interactive and participatory sessions contributed greatly to the learning experience and the creation of networks. Special gratitude was expressed to the gender trainer, Mereseini Seniloli of SPC. For most participants this was the first training on gender they had ever been to.

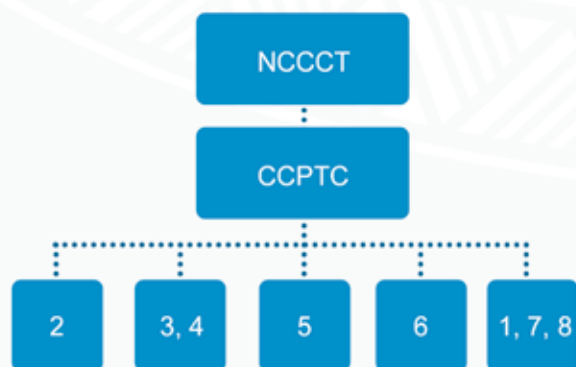
The workshop was organised by the SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Region programme, the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Ministry of Social Welfare, Women and Poverty Alleviation.

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## News in brief

- A "Climate Change Website" is being developed to assist in the dissemination of climate change information. This will also take advantage of the various social media networks for a wider audience coverage.
- The National Climate Change Policy implementation workshop was held over two days from 28th – 29th June, 2012. This saw government and civil societies coming together to adopt a structure for the coordination of climate change activities towards the implementation of the NCCP.
- Integration of climate change into the education curriculum. There have been workshops and consultation, together with a curriculum mapping exercise. The Ministry of Education's Curriculum Development Unit is working in partnership with the SPC/GIZ Coping with "Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region Programme."
- The Fiji national REDD+ Programme forges ahead with the revised calculation of national forest carbon stocks and field programmes to undertake biodiversity surveys, forest inventory, carbon pool measurements and participatory socio-economic analysis of the REDD+ pilot site that commenced in July 2012.

## NCCP Implementation Structure



**NCCCT- National Climate Change Country Team**

**CCPTC - Climate Change Policy Technical Committee**

1. Mainstreaming
2. Data Collection
3. Awareness Raising
4. Education & Training
5. Adaptation
6. Mitigation
7. Financing
8. International & Pacific Region Participation

## Fiji Climate Outlook

July to September & October to December 2012

(Excerpt from: July 09, 2012 Volume 6; Issue 07, Fiji Meteorological Service)

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Neutral El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) conditions continue to persist in the tropical Pacific, however, climate models indicate an increasing shift towards El Niño developing;
- The tropical Pacific Ocean is likely to warm in the coming months with the possibility of approaching the El-Niño threshold towards the end of the current dry season;
- Equal chances of below average, average and above average rainfall is predicted for the Fiji Group over the July to September and average to below average rainfall is favoured for the October to November 2012 periods;
- The air temperatures to be around normal during the July to September and the October to December 2012 periods;
- The sea surface temperatures are predicted to be around normal in the Fiji region through the July to September 2012 period.

Detailed Outlook report on this link: <http://www.met.gov.fj/Outlook.pdf>

Or contact:

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Nadi Airport, Fiji.

Ph: +679 6724888, Fax: +679 6724050; Email: [climate@met.gov.fj](mailto:climate@met.gov.fj); URL: <http://www.met.gov.fj>

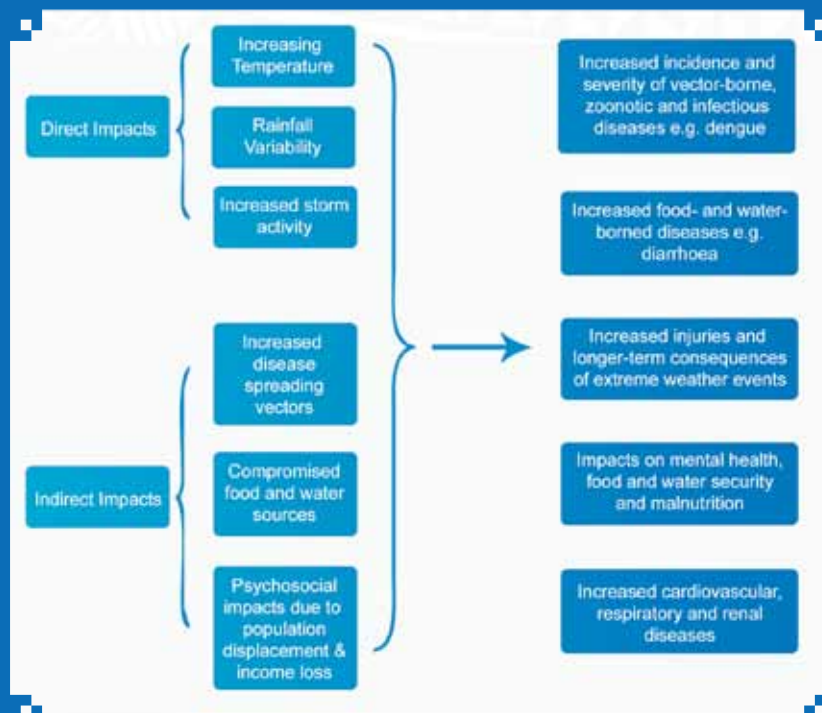
## Learning about Climate Change

### CLIMATE CHANGE AND HEALTH

Climate change: A change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods (United Nations 1992).

In iTaukei – “Draki Veisau”

Climate change is impacting human health, in many ways. Studies in Fiji show that diarrhoeal cases increase during both dry and wet periods while dengue is more common during drought periods. The diagram to the right is a summary of how climate change impacts human health in direct and indirect ways.



The Fiji climate change newsletter is produced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation in partnership with the SPC/GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Island Region Programme



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