



Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Third Fiji National Climate Change Summit

Levuka, Ovalau

8-10 September 2015

SUMMARY OF OUTCOMES

The Third Fiji National Climate Change Summit was held in Levuka, Ovalau from 8 to 10 September 2015. The 400 delegates represented sectors and communities across Fiji, including iTaukei resource owners, private sector, civil society, women and youth and distinguished delegates from Tuvalu. The Summit was opened by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Fiji, the Honourable Voreqe Bainimarama.

The Summit Objectives were to:

- i) promote opportunities for effective collaboration among government agencies, private sector, civil society and academia,
- ii) share adaptation, mitigation and disaster risk management (DRM) best practice among community stakeholders,
- iii) promote the participation of local communities, in identifying the best possible solutions to climate change impacts,
- iv) raise awareness on new adaptation and mitigation initiatives and identify opportunities for capacity building,
- v) share information on climate finance and resourcing opportunities and access,
- vi) identify emerging climate change concerns to inform and/or mainstream into development policy, strategy, programmes and practices.

Participants at the 2015 Fiji National Climate Change Summit:

1.0 PROGRESS SINCE 2013

- 1.1 Noted that significant progress has been made since the 2013 National Climate Change Summit held in Narewa Village under the following themes: i. Financing; ii. Adaptation and Vulnerability; iii. Mitigation; and iv. Education, Awareness and Traditional Knowledge;
- 1.2 Acknowledged the frameworks and processes designed to facilitate greater sectoral and stakeholder coordination through the:
 - i. Fiji Green Growth Framework;
 - ii. draft Climate Public Expenditure Institutional Review (CPEIR);
 - iii. works to improve Fiji's Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment (V&A) tool to inform priority risk areas and target resilience building programmes into the future;
 - iv. preparation to support options for the deployment of appropriate renewable energy sources for electricity generation;
 - v. launch of Fiji's forest programme on mitigation and adaption for 'Reduction through Emissions from Deforestation and land Degradation' (REDD+);
 - vi. Pilot of a school resource on Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation on traditional knowledge; and

vii. translation of the Policy into the iTaukei language (see Annex 1), and acknowledging that the Fiji-Hindi version is yet to be developed; and

- 1.3 **Called** for coordinated efforts to ensure public, private, civil society and development climate-stakeholders are informed and engaged in the process the Summit implementation.

2.0 FIJI'S ROADMAP TO PARIS

- 2.1 Informed about the important UN Framework Convention on Climate Change Conference (COP21) at the end of 2015 to ensure a post-2020 climate agreement in Paris; commended the report on Fiji's participation to date; and affirmed the need for a participatory and inclusive preparations process to ensure Fiji's gainful and positive participation in Paris;
- 2.2 Acknowledged and affirmed the Suva Declaration of the 2015 *Pacific Island Development Forum* Leaders' climate change position at its recently concluded meeting calling for a strong Paris agreement;
- 2.3 Affirmed the Prime Minister of Fiji's opening remarks, for the need for all countries, especially rich industrial countries, to help deliver a Paris agreement that is 'fair, ambitious and binding';
- 2.4 Affirmed and acknowledged that culture and traditional knowledge is a core of people's existence in Fiji; affirmed Fiji's INDC (Intended Nationally Determined Contributions) preparation, and that it be ambitious enough to contribute to building global momentum toward an ambitious agreement in Paris;
- 2.5 **Called** for 'Loss and Damage' to be anchored in the Paris Agreement; and
- 2.6 **Called** on the Climate Change Division to prepare and to train in negotiation and advocacy skills Fiji delegates attending the Paris Climate COP for a strong climate position on: Financing, Adaptation, Mitigation, and long-term temperature goals of 1.5 degrees Celsius.

3.0 MITIGATION - ADDRESSING THE ROOT CAUSES OF GHG EMISSIONS THROUGH STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIPS

- 3.1 Acknowledged the role of REDD+ in reducing net-global carbon emissions including activities such as forest conservation, sustainable management of forests and carbon stock enhancement, and noting that REDD+ also promotes the protection of ecosystem services of value to forest communities;
- 3.2 Recognised the need to review the building codes to encourage more energy efficient buildings but acknowledged that there are current gaps in skills of risk engineers and enforcement of building codes;
- 3.3 Welcomed government initiatives to encourage investment in renewable energy production and other efforts to reduce energy use in the country (*inter-alia*, energy rebates, energy-star-ratings on appliances and awareness programs);
- 3.4 Noted that the land and sea transport sector is the largest contributor to Fiji's annual carbon emissions and deserves significant attention in the area of mitigation; and

- 3.5 **Called** for the use of incentives and enabling policies coupled with matching infrastructure to encourage investment in energy sources, including explore “low technology” mitigation options such as; solar, biogas, and appropriate renewable energy sources;
- 3.6 **Called** for the promotion of healthy lifestyles as a mitigation opportunity aided by municipal policy to set-up of bicycle paths and walkways; and
- 3.7 **Called** for continued collaboration and partnerships between the private and public sector as a way of providing direct benefit to communities and committed to seeking opportunities to replicate and/or upscale such partnerships.

4.0 STRENGTHENING THE INTEGRATION OF DISASTER RISK REDUCTION AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Regional Integration

- 4.1 Acknowledged the existence of the regional Strategy for Climate Resilient Development in the Pacific (SRDP), which provides a framework for integrating climate change and disaster risk reduction by bringing together the Pacific Islands Framework for Adaptation to Climate Change (PIFACC) and the Pacific Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management Framework for Action (RFA); and
- 4.2 **Called** for a joint strategy for CC and DRM to facilitate coordination and effective collaboration between the National Disaster Risk Management Office (NDMO), the Climate Change Division (CCD), and the National Planning Office.

Financing implications

- 4.3 Acknowledged the important role of climate finance to operationalise national and community adaptation and mitigation priorities;
- 4.4 Agreed that greater transparency, cooperation and inter-organisational coordination is needed to ensure the best possible use and access to international public and private funds;
- 4.5 Acknowledged the unpredictability of long term impacts of climate change, noting that this would determine the viability and development of critical infrastructure;
- 4.6 Noted that not all adaptation measures require significant financing - small projects with the inclusion of traditional knowledge can leverage the benefits of locally appropriate technologies which can be sustainable, and in particular, acknowledged the Narikoso Village initiative in mobilising resources;
- 4.7 Acknowledged the need for collaboration on existent climate and DRR finance mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund, the Adaptation Fund Board, and the Global Environment Facility;
- 4.8 Recognised the role of the engineering and scientific sector in implementing and reporting on adaptation and mitigation processes and acknowledged the need to strengthen the current lack of adequate professional capacity at the national level in these sectors;
- 4.9 **Called** for greater capacity building, awareness raising and training on the financial facilities that exist and how best to access and utilise them; and
- 4.10 **Called** for the mainstreaming of climate change adaptation (CCA) and DRM issues into national capital budget processes.

Education, Awareness and Traditional Knowledge

- 4.11 Acknowledged the impact of climate change on food security and livelihoods, and the need to safeguard inshore and offshore fisheries, agricultural practices and the use of traditional knowledge;
- 4.12 Noted the need to strengthen governance and the urgency for a coordinated standard resource mobilisation strategy that is accessible to all civil society organisations (CSOs), including formal and informal communities;
- 4.13 Reaffirmed the value of traditional knowledge and spiritual wisdom in encouraging sustainable lifestyles and philosophies and welcomed initiatives to revive and preserve this knowledge through practice (eg. tabu areas, agricultural practices, food preservation);
- 4.14 Recognised that inherent in traditional practices are practices that aid in people's and community resilience to climate change and disasters;
- 4.15 Acknowledged the need for creative provision for alternative education for locally appropriate technologies practiced at community level;
- 4.16 Noted the European Union supported PacTVET project to help develop national qualifications in climate change and sustainable energy;
- 4.17 **Called** for the careful documentation of traditional knowledge to build national resilience to climate change, disasters and enhance sustainable development;
- 4.18 **Called** for the following agencies: Agriculture, Meteorology and NDMO to acknowledge traditional knowledge and see ways that it can enrich existing technical and scientific knowledge;
- 4.19 **Called** for all educational institutions to mainstream climate change in policy operations and pedagogy; and
- 4.20 **Called** for teacher training and continuous in-service teacher professional development on climate change and DRR education.

Community Engagement and Empowerment

- 4.21 Acknowledged that communities can empower themselves through proactive steps to strengthen resilience, including ongoing disaster preparedness, the establishment of food banks and water storage facilities;
- 4.22 Recognised the need to strengthen existing traditional knowledge and, where appropriate, have this documented via Turaga Ni Koro, village committee, district committee and at Provincial level;
- 4.23 Agreed that District Development Plans involve extensive and inclusive consultation processes that integrate and mainstream all aspects of development, including climate change and disaster risk reduction, and sustainable land/marine use management;
- 4.24 Reaffirmed the need to translate policies and legislation into practical steps at the community level and using language that empowers individuals, and noted that provincial councils and district offices are key conduits for disseminating such information;
- 4.25 **Called** for inclusive engagement and comprehensive training with youth, women and people with disabilities in all their diversities and to recognise them as equal action partners in these consultations;

- 4.26 **Called** on traditional and informal communities to work with government and relevant stakeholders through the Vulnerability Assessment tool to help highlight and map community vulnerabilities to climate change and disasters, so as to build a credible platform for appropriate responses;
- 4.27 **Called** for an integrated, smart community action plan that takes into account existing mechanisms for coordinated DRR and CCD; and
- 4.28 Affirmed the principles of monitoring and evaluation of the National Climate Change Policy, **called** for the development of a framework for monitoring and evaluation of implemented projects.

Inclusivity in Decision Making Processes

- 4.29 Acknowledged that efforts towards building climate change resilience cannot move forward without the active engagement, as equal partners, of civil society, women, youth and persons with disabilities, and recognised in particular, the role of women and youth in mobilising change;
- 4.30 Recognised the role of faith-based groups in taking a proactive role in climate change adaptation and mitigation, especially in encouraging and role-modelling practical lifestyle changes;
- 4.31 Acknowledged the importance of built heritage and its preservation and recognised the risks posed by climate change, and **agreed** that Levuka provides the opportunity to serve as a demonstration model for Fiji to design adaptation and mitigation strategies for such World Heritage sites facing climate change challenges; and
- 4.32 **Called** for effective collaboration between the Climate Change Division, Department of Agriculture and Department of Environment in order to improve synergies and complementarities in decisions at the international, regional, national and local level.

5.0 HUMAN MOBILITY, FORCED MIGRATION

- 5.1 Acknowledged that relocation is an adaptation measure of last resort, and that comprehensive vulnerability and adaptation assessment(s) be the basis to guide and inform all future relocation plans and processes; and affirmed the need to listen to, learn from and engage affected communities at all stages in the relocation process;
- 5.2 Encouraged and supported a multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approach (technical-social) to the sustainability (and restoration) of livelihoods;
- 5.3 Encouraged a pro-active community approach taking leadership initiative where appropriate;
- 5.4 **Called** on stakeholders engaged in the relocation guidelines to identify and document unique values that will help define a meaningful Fiji-specific relocation process; and
- 5.5 **Called** for the expeditious completion of Fiji's relocation guidelines.

6.0 ENABLING SERVICES: FINANCE, FIJI MET OFFICE, EDUCATION, HEALTH, CCD

- 6.1 Acknowledged that healthy societies and healthy biodiversity and ecosystems are the main preparation tool for building resilience, and recognised the need to strengthen structures that promote healthy practices including waste management, sanitation and hygiene;
- 6.2 Acknowledged the important role of the Fiji Meteorological Service and the need for up to date news information that is timely and understandable;
- 6.3 **Called** for a more coordinated effort by the government departments with all relevant stakeholders to assist the DRR and CCA national priorities;
- 6.4 **Called** for adequate resourcing for all essential services to address the growing impacts of climate change;
- 6.5 **Called** for the development of a DRR Glossary and translation of the DRR Resource currently being developed by MoE with GIZ education materials for use in schools and in teacher development.