

# **NATIONAL SUMMIT FOR BUILDING RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE**

## **LABASA OUTCOMES**

LABASA TOWN HALL

LABASA TOWN, MACUATA PROVINCE, FIJI

23 -25 OCTOBER 2012

1. The National Summit for Building Resilience to Climate Change was held at the Labasa Town Hall, Labasa Town in the Province of Macuata. The objective of the Summit was to bring together practitioners, community leaders, educators, communicators and managers guided by related government agencies on the broad theme of "Building Resilience to Climate Change". Secondly, to provide a platform to share accounts of how climate change has impacted our peoples way of life, and also identify gaps, challenges and concerns and recommend solutions on best ways to address them.
2. The National Summit was officially opened by the Tui Macuata, Ratu Aisea Katonivere, and attended by government officials, development partners, academia, media, community leaders, private sectors and civil society organizations.
3. In his opening address, the Tui Macuata, Ratu Aisea Katonivere emphasized the importance of discussing and sharing climate –smart solutions for our nation to build resilience to climate change.
4. The National Summit deliberated on 3 key themes; i.Mainstreaming, ii.Education, Training & Awareness and iii. Adaptation and Mitigation. The Summit comprised of morning plenary and afternoon workshops and, fieldtrips.
5. The participants at the National Summit agreed to the following outcomes:

### **5.1 Mainstreaming**

#### **5.1.1 Coordination**

The following gaps, concerns and challenges were identified:

- a) coordination of climate change interventions is an issue, which leads to duplication of work (gap and resource wastage);
- b) Climate change projects need to be inclusive of all ethnic and faith-based communities, municipalities, government departments, non-governmental/ civil society organisations and the private sector.

The following solutions were identified:

- a) Climate Change Unit (CCU) in consultation with all relevant stakeholders will develop protocol and outline procedures for government ministries and organisations to follow in the planning, development, implementation and monitoring of climate change interventions;
- b) existing institutional structures (e.g. I-Taukei Affairs Board and the provincial offices) to be fully utilized;
- c) Climate Change (CC) issues and targets to be incorporated into all Government Ministry corporate and business plans in 2013 and ultimately into sector plans for the next iteration of the National Development Strategy;
- d) to include the Ministry of Women, Ministry of Youth and Sports; the Ministry of Labour and other relevant line ministries with relevant key roles, in the CC Policy;
- e) improvements to human health should be one of the focus areas in all climate change projects;
- f) Health Impact Assessments (HIA) should be mainstreamed into climate change projects;
- g) mapping areas to identify risk and hazards should be adopted as a standard practice both as a planning tool and in update of assessments undertaken in any geographical area upon completion of study;
- h) CCU to collaborate with the Mainstreaming Subcommittee to effectively implement the Objective 1 of the National Climate Change Policy (NCCP).

### **5.1.2 Gender, Youth and Marginalised Groups**

The following gaps, concerns and challenges were identified:

- a) women are one of the most vulnerable groups to the impacts of climate change but also possess significant mitigation and adaptation knowledge. (The resilience knowledge in communities often rests with women (e.g. Water sources, food gathering) ;
- b) youths should be afforded the opportunity and spaces to share and contribute their ideas;
- c) there is very little representation of marginalized groups such as people with disabilities, people living with chronic health conditions and other under-represented groups;

The following solutions were identified:

- a) engage women, youth, marginalized groups and people with chronic health conditions in the whole project/program cycle from design right through to monitoring and evaluation stages;
- b) integrate women and empowerment of women, youth, marginalized groups and people with chronic health conditions;
- c) collate Sex and Age Disaggregated data as it will assist in bringing to light the difference as highlighted in principle 10 of the NCCP;
- d) all CC projects should be guided by the Principles highlighted in the NCCP especially on Principle No.8 and No.10.

## **5.2 Data Collection and Storage**

The following gaps, concerns and challenges were identified:

- a) lack of data and information sharing amongst climate change practitioners and other stakeholders;
- b) scarcity of meteorological data, hydrology data, etc. (minimal number monitoring stations)

The following solutions were identified:

- a) develop a database/web portal as a repository of CC and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) information;
- b) support Fiji Meteorology Service (FMS) to strengthen its monitoring networks;
- c) CCU and National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) to collaborate in mapping and profiling stakeholders undertaking CC and DRRM work; a proper piece of stakeholder network analysis in relation to climate change in Fiji (This would show how communication flows, who works together, what areas are connected (or not) - going way-beyond just a list of vaguely related people/organisations);
- d) CCU to collaborate with the Data Collection Sub-committee to effectively implement the Objective 2 of the National Climate Change Policy.

## **5.3 Finance**

The following gaps, concerns and challenges were identified:

- a) need to collaborate and coordinate plans, programmes, projects on climate change undertaken at national level to maximize opportunities, synergies potentials and improve access to funds available for CC and DRRM work.
- b) ensure that funding is addressing priority issues at the community level.
- c) lack of awareness of climate financing facilities.

- d) lack of information on the historical and current financing activities of CC projects/programs currently being implemented in Fiji.

The following solutions were identified:

- a) CCU in consultation with the Finance Sub-committee to develop strategies, mechanisms and ways to access international funding for programs and projects;
- b) explore the mechanism for CC Tax for those that cause degradation i.e. work very closely with the Department of Environment in the enforcement of Environment Management Act (EMA) 2005 and the EMA Regulation 2007 and also CCU to consult with SPREP on exploring the process for CC Tax;
- c) CCU in consultation with the Finance sub-committee to undertake a stocktaking and prioritization of CC projects and financing for current and outer years of planned and expended funds on climate change activities in Fiji;
- d) CCU to coordinate awareness raising, training and capacity building on accessing climate finance for communities;
- e) CCU in consultation with the Finance Sub-committee to effectively implement the Objective 7 of the NCCP.

#### **5.4 Education and Training**

The following gaps, concerns and challenges were identified:

- a) CC training and education should be targeted and tailored for all levels of our society (urban & rural, literate and illiterate) and including people with disabilities;
- b) need to integrate CC issues/ awareness into current rural projects;
- c) need to focus more on the impacts that CC will bring and have the onus on the communities to be proactive and begin preparing and building resilience to CC;
- d) need to develop vernacular communication of CC issues to provide awareness to rural communities;
- e) no CC programs at undergraduate level at tertiary institutions.

The following solutions were identified:

- a) the Education and Training Sub-committee to oversee in the standardization of the CC information handbook or manual to be created with collaboration from all key stakeholders. The Itaukei Affairs Board is planning to undertake this through a consultative process;
- b) the Education and Training Sub-committee to oversee the standardization of the CC glossary in different vernaculars with relevant line ministries so that people are all speaking the same language and nothing is lost in translation;

- c) CCU to work with the Ministry of Itaukei Affairs to explore Access and Benefit Sharing (ABS Protocol) privileges to the traditional knowledge information bank for the planning and design of CC interventions;
- d) CCU to support the Ministry of Education in integrating climate change knowledge in the school curriculum at all levels;
- e) develop vernacular communication of CC issues to provide awareness to rural communities through the Itaukei Affairs Board and other relevant ministries, this will be assisted by the Ministry of Itaukei Affairs, Department of Multi-Ethnic Affairs, the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Information;
- f) CC projects should be inclusive and reach to all ethnic communities;
- g) CCU and development partners to support and encourage tertiary institutions to integrate CC into relevant programs and courses;
- h) CCU in consultation with the Education and Training Sub-committee to effectively implement the Objective 4 of the National Climate Change Policy;
- i) Government to include CC as a key priority area for scholarship and exchange programs.

## **5.5 Communication and Awareness Raising**

The following gaps, concerns and challenges were identified:

- a) enforcement of the Environment Management Act (EMA) of which Impact Assessment and Waste Permit System are integral tools;
- b) lack of locally specific climate modeling/projections to inform infrastructure and development plans;
- c) misunderstanding in the mainstream media of what CC is and the impacts and issues related to it;
- d) misunderstanding amongst stakeholders about news-making processes;
- e) disconnect between national CC issues and corporate organisations;
- f) no communication strategy.

The following solutions were identified:

- a) strengthen DOE in capacity and resources to raise awareness on EMA and Impact Assessment and Waste Permit System tools;
- b) develop vernacular communication on the EIA and its benefits on environment management;
- c) strengthening the capacity of local institutions (i.e. USP, FNU, UF, FMS, etc.) to provide locally specific climate modeling/projections to inform infrastructure and development plans;
- d) capacity building and training the media on climate change issues;



- e) support the Faith Based Organisations (FBOs) on providing community based climate change awareness;
- f) strengthen partnerships with the mainstream media to support Objective 4 of the NCCP (Education & Training) through sustaining awareness of CC and DRRM issues;
- g) engage and strengthen corporate partnerships in CC and DRRM awareness raising as part of their Corporate Social responsibility (i.e. Public Private Partnership);
- h) establish partnership with development partners (i.e. USP, PACCSAP, NOAA, etc.) to address locally specific climate modeling and projections for better policies and development plans;
- i) CCU newsletter to be widely circulated;
- j) develop an integrated communication strategy in the NCCP (i.e. recruitment of a Communication officer);
- k) CCU in consultation with the Awareness Raising Sub-committee to effectively implement the Objective 3 of the NCCP.

## **5.6 Adaptation**

The following gaps, concerns and challenges were identified:

- a) lack of research and adaptation actions to reduce Non-Communicable Diseases (NCD);
- b) poor logging practices that is exacerbating flood damage;
- c) uncontrolled clearing of land for development and agriculture;
- d) impacts of food security in times of natural disasters and lack of resilience crop seedlings (communities heavy reliance on Koronivia Research Station for seedlings);
- g) uncontrolled deforestation of mangroves for development purposes;
- h) need to review the National Building Code to incorporate CC;
- i) the need for integrated approach to natural resource management;
- j) need to promote monitoring and enforcement of SLM and EBM principles the to address sustainable solutions;
- k) lack of understanding at the individual and household level to adapt to climate change;
- l) need for all government ministries to incorporate CC in their plans and programs (sectoral approach);
- m) the National Communications (UNFCCC) and the National State of the Environment Report and National Environment Management Plan must be released in a timely manner;
- n) need for an effective implementation and monitoring of the Mangrove Management Plan by the ICMC;
- o) the need for early warning systems to be incorporated as part of the preparedness strategy to the DRRM, Weather, Health, and Natural Disasters.

The following solutions were identified:

- a) the Ministry of Health in collaboration with other institutions to undertake research on impacts of climate change on NCDs and implement appropriate adaptation measures;
- b) the Department of Agriculture to collaborate with other International and CROP Agencies for exchange of seed resilience program as an adaptation response;
- c) implement adaptation projects using the integrated "ridge to reef" approach;
- d) the DOA in consultation with relevant government agencies to review the National Land Use Planning so that permanent forest estate and agriculture lands are clearly defined;
- e) the Department of Agriculture and Department of Forests to promote and encourage local communities to cultivate traditional crops and the use of traditional preservation methods to address Food Security;
- f) explore partnerships between the Government agencies, NGOs and communities to strengthen the review process of the National Building Code;
- g) stop the destruction/clearance of mangrove forests, as a natural low cost national strategy to improve national resiliency to the impacts of climate change.
- h) CCU to collaborate and support the NBSAP (PAC) to fast track and roll out a national comprehensive system of protected areas, as a national resilience building strategy to impacts of climate change as well as for food security
- i) implement the integrated water resource management programs in consultation with private sector and regional organization;
- j) roll out a national competition for individual/household strategies in improving their resilience to change, and to showcase winning strategies for wider national use;
- k) promote awareness at all levels (public, private and local community) for behaviour change;
- l) early warning system that could be incorporated as part of the preparedness strategy (DRRM), this is also incorporated in the NCCP, CCU in consultation with the Adaptation Subcommittee to effectively implement the Objective 5 of the National Climate Change Policy.

## 5.7 Relocation

The following gaps, concerns and challenges were identified:

- a) not included in the CC Policy;
- b) insufficient awareness of the community on how to access assistance for relocation;
- c) non-existence of funding mechanism for relocation in CC Policy;
- d) lack of proper vulnerability assessment of the relocation sites;

The following solutions were identified:

- a) this issue of relocation to be included as an addendum to the CC Policy;

- b) explore partnerships between the Government, NGOs and communities so that responsibility is not left with one party;
- c) explore funding for relocation program from national, regional and international funding instruments;
- d) conduct comprehensive stakeholder vulnerability and risk assessment;
- e) the CCU to coordinate with other agencies on "Research and Designing of Rehabilitation Programs" also on the relocated sites (This is because the communities will be in a different environment altogether and they are so used to the resources around their old site, hence they will be tempted to move back when things do not go well. Consider some socio- economic activities. New environment would mean new lifestyle, social mapping and training all levels);
- f) the CC Policy to incorporate provisions or strategies for affected communities to undergo training on all phases of the Relocation process.

## 5.8 Mitigation

The following gaps, concerns and challenges were identified:

- a) High cost factor of renewable energy equipment e.g. solar panels and eco-bulbs
- b) need to review and strengthen sectoral V&A and risk assessment guidelines;
- c) lack of awareness by the public on climate change mitigation and mitigation activities;
- d) lack of awareness at the community level on mitigation strategies;
- e) calculation of annual emissions data collection by the CCU should be strengthened (this will also include the transportation and aviation sector GHGs emissions);
- f) need to develop the implementation strategy for the REDD+ policy.

The following solutions were identified:

- a) The Mitigation Sub-committee to explore ways and means of addressing the high cost factor of renewable energy and energy efficient equipment, including reducing cost subsidy of tax tariffs on renewable energy equipment;
- b) the Mitigation Sub-committee to collaborate with other institutions on alternative renewable energy sources and projects;
- c) to include mitigation in the Vulnerability Adaptation Assessment (V&A) and risk assessment guidelines;
- d) explore partnerships between the Government, financial institutions, NGOs and communities so that there is more awareness on climate change mitigation and mitigation activities;
- e) Provide more awareness on mitigation at the Public Sector, Private Sector, and the local urban and rural communities;



- f) build capacity and train CCU, Department of Environment(DOE) and Department of Energy(DOE), and the National Occupational Health Services(NOHS) in the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification of annual emission calculations;
- g) CCU in consultation with the Mitigation Sub-committee to effectively implement the Objective 3 of the NCCP.

## **6. WAY FORWARD**

6.1 The outcome document to be given to the NCCP sub-committees to develop implementation plans on addressing issues above.

6.2 The 2nd National Summit (for the people) will be held next year.

6.3 Establish a committee to organise the National Summit 2013.