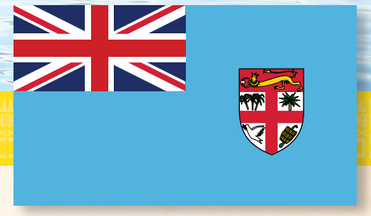
Fiji



Partnerships

Adaptation projects in Fiji bring together international and regional organizations dedicated to helping people to respond to climate change. SPREP, UNDP, USP, SPC, SOPAC, and GIZ are some of the organizations working in collaboration with the Government of Fiji as well as national and local partners. The Fiji Department of the Environment plays an important role in the implementation of adaptation projects. Additional organizations and funders include AusAID, ADB, GEF, USAID, and the Adaptation Fund.

Climate Science Information

The current climate is characterized by two distinct seasons – a warm wet season from November to April and a cooler dry season from May to October. Changes in air temperature from season to season are relatively small and strongly tied to changes in the surrounding ocean temperature.

In Fiji the annual and seasonal mean air temperatures have been increasing, particularly in the wet season. Since 1993, sea-level rise near Fiji has averaged about 6mm per year.

In terms of future climate trends, it is anticipated with very high confidence that surface air temperature and sea-surface temperature will increase. Wet season rainfall, and the intensity and frequency of days of extreme heat and extreme rainfall, are all projected to increase. Dry season rainfall is projected to decrease. Ocean acidification is projected to continue and mean sea-level rise is projected to continue.

Ongoing Challenges

Most of the adaptation action in Fiji focuses on its important coastal zone and water management needs. Greater attention may also be given to addressing the country's adaptation priorities in the agriculture sector. In addition, none of the currently identified projects specifically focus on the gender dimensions of climate change.

As detailed in the Republic of Fiji, National Climate Change Policy, 2012, the following are major constraints towards addressing climate change issues in Fiji: institutional framework, supporting legislation, national planning, human resources, awareness and training, and education.

Main Focal Point for Climate Change

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Country Overview

Introduction

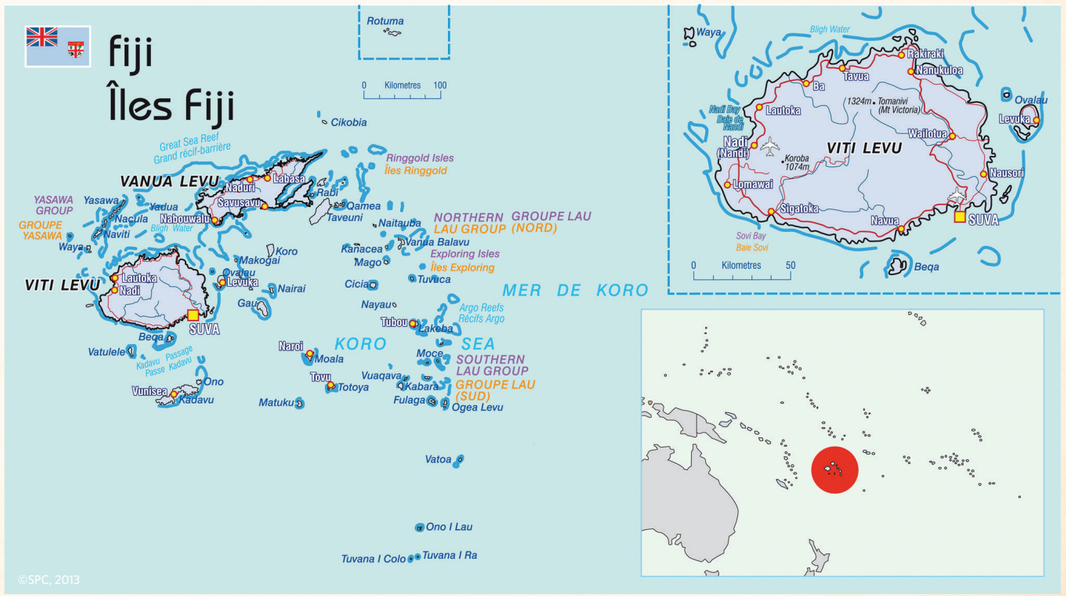
Located approximately 2000km off of the northeast of New Zealand's North Island, the Republic of Fiji is composed of over 330 islands. Fiji's Exclusive Economic Zone comprises 1.3 million km2; approximately a third of the 330 islands are inhabited. The two major islands make up 87% of the total land area and are of volcanic origin. The current population of Fiji is approximately 840,000 of which more than 670,000 (more than 80%) live on the main island of Viti Levu. Fiji is one of the most economically developed countries in the Pacific due to an abundance of forest, mineral and marine resources. Its main industries are tourism and sugar exports.

Current Climate

With climate change in Fiji, temperatures have increased, sea level has risen and ocean acidification has been increasing. Climate change is expected to affect the country's coastal resources through sea level rise, and ocean acidification continues to increase and threaten coral reef ecosystems. There are anticipated impacts on infrastructure caused by the projected increase in the frequency and intensity of cyclones and other tropical storms. Additionally, temperature will continue to increase, rainfall patterns will change, there will be less frequent (but more intense) tropical cyclones, sea levels will continue to rise and ocean acidification will continue.

Future Climate Prediction

Projections for all emissions scenarios indicate that the annual average air temperature and sea surface temperature will increase in the future in Fiji. By 2030, under a high emissions scenario, this increase in temperature is projected to be in the range of 0.4–1.0°C. Increases in the average temperature will also result in a rise in the number of hot days and warm nights and a decline in cooler weather.



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Full references and works cited list is available via the country profile on the Pacific Climate Change Portal.

National Climate Change Priorities for Fiji

In 2006, Fiji submitted its first National Communications Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in which it highlighted its prioritized national vulnerabilities to climate change impacts. These national priorities fell under four focal areas: coastal resources, water, food security and health.



Guiding National Policies



Climate Change Policy: Fiji 2012
Defines the position of government and other stakeholders on issues of climate change, climate variability and sea level rise. It also defines the various responsibilities of each stakeholder in the short and long term. The framework resulted from a 2011 review to reflect current and emerging climate change issues at the local, national and international level.

Preparing Fiji's National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (NCCAS)
Presentation to the National Climate Change Country Team and Other Stakeholders. The Reactive and Planned Adaptation initiative includes addressing shorter-term climate variability as well as the impacts of longer-term climate change.





Climate Change – The Fiji Islands Response: Fiji's First National Communication Under the Framework Convention on Climate Change 2005
The Fiji Department of the Environment's Initial National Communication (INC) under the Framework Convention on Climate Change, submitted in 2006, outlines the climate change situation for Fiji and details adaptation measures for the country. Building on this effort, Fiji integrated climate change considerations into its Strategic Development Plan (2007–2011).

Governance

In 1997, the National Climate Change Country Team (NCCCT) was established with representatives from a range of government agencies, non-governmental organizations and academic institutions. The team was established primarily to facilitate the development of the Fiji Initial National Communication (INC) to the UNFCCC Secretariat. The NCCCT was revived in 2010, and now serves as the main platform for information sharing and climate change project progress reporting. The NCCCT also provides direction and guidance to the Climate Change Unit on climate change-related matters.

Adaptation

A very high number of adaptation projects and programs are currently underway in Fiji. All of these projects engage other countries from across the Pacific and globally; no projects that solely meets Fiji's individual needs have been identified. The focus of these projects is diverse, including coastal management, water management, wetlands, agriculture, meteorology and risk reduction as well as health, fisheries, forestry and energy.



Mitigation

Objective 6 of the Republic of Fiji, National Climate Change Policy, 2012, is Mitigation. The overarching objective is to reduce Fiji's greenhouse gas emissions and implement initiatives to increase the sequestration and storage of greenhouse gases.

The Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project (PIGGAREP) focusses specifically on mitigation. PIGGAREP activities identified for Fiji build on 2 key initiatives: (1) Government of Fiji Rural Electrification Programme, and (2) the Pacific Islands Cooperation Programme with the Government of Italy.

Education

UNESCO's Sharing Perceptions of Adaptation, Resilience and Climate Knowledge project ("SPARCK") is part of a wider program on increasing climate literacy and knowledge in the Pacific. SPARCK Fiji is supported by key partners including the Ministries of Information, Environment, and Education. Objectives include investigating climate change perceptions, decision making and adaptive capacities of communities. The project will also pioneer an innovative mobile phone survey modality to collect data.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Enhancing Resilience of Rural Communities to Flood and Drought-Related Climate Change and Disaster Risks in the Ba Catchment Area of Fiji
This project will integrate climate change into current flood/drought risk management through information generation, training and dissemination. The project will concentrate on four areas: 1) Climate early warning and information systems; 2) Community based adaptation to flood and drought related risk and hazards; 3) Institutional strengthening to support climate-and disaster-resilient policy frameworks; 4) Awareness raising and knowledge management.

Pacific Islands Greenhouse Gas Abatement through Renewable Energy Project
PIGGAREP activities identified for Fiji build on two key initiatives: 1) Government of Fiji Rural Electrification Programme; 2) the Pacific Islands Cooperation Programme with the Government of Italy. For more information: http://www.sprep.org/Pacific-Islands-Greenhouse-Gas-Abatement-through-Renewable-Energy-Project/about-piggarep
(Sectoral theme: Renewable energy)

Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change
Objective: to reduce vulnerability and increase adaptive capacity to the adverse effects of climate change in key development sectors identified by 14 participating countries and territories in the Pacific. The key sectors identified are: 1) Coastal Zone Management; 2) Food Production and Food Security; 3) Water Resource Management. In Fiji, the PACC project is improving crop resilience and drainage systems in lowland farming areas in the Tailevu-Rewa and Serua-Namosi Province.