



2 DAYS CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INCEPTION WORKSHOP

29th – 30th July 2008,
Southern Cross Hotel, Suva, Fiji.



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Capacity Development workshop of NCSA project for biodiversity, climate change and combating desertification (land degradation) was held on the 29-30th July 2008 at the Southern Cross Hotel, Suva organized by the Department of Environment, Ministry of Local Government, Housing, Urban Development and Environment, Government of Fiji. The workshop was attended by over 26 participants comprising of representatives from state Government, International NGOs and International Organizations

Capacity constraints have been increasingly recognized as a main obstacle to sustainable development in most developing countries. Accordingly, the development community has paid increasing attention to capacity development and capacity assessment in its policies and projects. In addition, a large number of regional and international agreements and Conventions have come into force over the last two decades. Each places additional demands on the capacity of participating countries. This lack of capacity has been identified as a key obstacle to the effective implementation of the Conventions

This workshop was part of the NCSA process to familiarize participants with the concept of capacity development, take stock and reviews the past and on-going of activities in capacity development especially at the state and local level and to gather stakeholder input to the nation's anticipated development of a National Capacity Development Action Plan. This workshop created the opportunity to enhance awareness, share experience and lessons learned among the stakeholders in managing biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

The objective of the workshop is to familiarize participants with the following:

- Capacity building: definitions of key concepts
- Concept of Capacity Development at three levels-Individual, Institutional and systemic
- Create awareness of stakeholders on the current capacity issues relevant to biodiversity, climate change and land degradation;
- Obligations under three conventions & gather and review information of past and on-going capacity development activities at the state and local level
- National Capacity Self Assessment Constraints
- Share lessons of experience in the application of Capacity Assessment & Solicit input from relevant stakeholders on the state of Fiji's obligations to the three Rio Conventions, through open forum and round table discussions

The one and a half days workshop was divided into two sessions, the first day focused on capacity development, concepts on NCSA and obligations of Fiji with reference to the conventions on Biodiversity, and the Climate Change and Land Degradation. The last session of the first day was devoted to discussions and brainstorming to elicit views from participants to capacity development action plans

On the second day focus was on thematic assessment and cross cutting process besides there was a roundtable discussion facilitated by the consultants for thoughts and views on capacity gaps, strength and constraints in meeting convention obligation.

INTRODUCTION

The Capacity Development workshop was held on the 29-30 July 2008 at the Southern Cross Hotel by the Department of Environment under the Ministry of Local government, Housing, Urban Development and Environment. The workshop was attended by over 26 participants comprising of representatives from state agencies, international and local NGOs, private sectors and NGOs.

This event is part of the NCSA process to take stock and review the past and on-going of stakeholder activities in capacity development especially at the state and local level and to gather stakeholder input to the nation's anticipated development of a National Capacity Development Action Plan. This consultation workshop creates the opportunity to enhance awareness, share experience and lessons learned among the stakeholders in managing biodiversity, climate change and land degradation.

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(Mr. Toily Kurbanov, addressing the workshop on UNDP-GEF Contribution to Capacity Development)



(Ashis Mohapatra, International Consultant on Capacity Development Concepts)



(Mr. Leone Limalevu on UNCCD)



DAY 1: KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Interim Minister for Local government, Housing, Urban Development and Environment Mr. Lekh Ram Vayeshnoi in his keynote address emphasized that capacity constraints have been increasingly recognized as a main obstacle to sustainable development in many countries and described capacity as "as the ability of individuals, institutions and societies to perform functions, solve problems, and set and achieve objectives in a sustainable manner". He also said Department of Environment under the National Capacity Self Assessment(NCSA) project has been tasked to assess Fiji's Capacity to implement it's obligations under the Rio Conventions which relates UN conventions on Climate Change, Biodiversity and Land degradation or desertification

DAY 1: CONCEPT OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP AND INTRODUCTION

The Director, Department of Environment Mr. Epeli Nasome briefly spoke on the concept of the workshop, reasons for holding a capacity development workshop and the NCSA process and introduced the facilitators to the participants

DAY 1: SESSION 1: CONCEPT OF CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

The UNDP International Consultant, Ashis Mohapatra introduced participants to the capacity development concepts and it's conceptual predecessors in last 5 decades. He also explained the capacity existence, dimension and assessment at three levels- systemic, institutional and individual level. He further explained that Capacity Development concepts are equally applicable in NCSA project as it is tasked to assess the capacity of the country at all three levels towards implementing obligations under the three Rio UN conventions

DAY 1: SESSION 2: THE THREE RIO CONVENTION OBLIGATIONS

The local consultants briefly explained the Rio Convention obligations:

FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE & KYOTO PROTOCOL BY DR. PAULO VANUALAILAI

The overarching aim of the Framework Convention on Climate Change is to stabilise the concentrations of Green House Gases (GHGs, e.g. carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydro fluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride) in the atmosphere that are related to human induced interference with the climate system. GHGs are thought to exacerbate climate change and alter agricultural / eco zones e.g. mid-latitude regions are expected to shift 200 - 300 km for each one degree Celsius increase in temperature. Due to glacial melt and thermal expansion of the sea, sea levels are predicted to rise by as much as 65 cm by 2100, threatening both coastal and low lying areas. The frequency and intensity of extreme natural events e.g. storms and hurricanes are also expected to increase.

UNFCCC party commitments include:

- National inventory: presentation to the COP of a national inventory of emissions
- Implementation programmes: formulate national and regional programmes with measures to mitigate climate change, incorporating principles of “common but differentiated responsibilities” according to economic and political situations. 24 OECD countries have committed to return to 1990 levels of GHG emission by 2000
- Cooperation: a joined-up approach is vital to reduce GHG emissions, including action relating to transport, energy, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management
- Industrial responsibility: industrial countries bear greatest responsibility to carry out the agreement as the principal GHG emitters, including technology transfer and financial commitment

Kyoto Protocol commitments include:

- Targets: a legally binding emission target on the six key GHGs (listed above) i.e. a 5% reduction on 1990 levels by 2008 -2012
- Establish new financial mechanisms: an Emissions Trading System, a Joint Implementation mechanism between countries in the OECD and economies in transition countries (so called “Annex I countries”) and Clean Development Mechanism(CDM) for projects between Annex I countries and developing countries (“non Annex I parties”).

Dr. Paulo further explained the underlying principles, Fiji ratification status, and obligations of Fiji under the UNFCCC

Dr. Paulo further explained the underlying principles, Fiji ratification status, and obligations of Fiji under the UNFCCC in particular the CDM under the Kyoto Protocol.

- Under the Kyoto Protocol, the only arrangement important and relevant to Fiji is the CDM
- Institutional arrangement and policy framework for CDM is lacking but direct involvement in the compulsory and voluntary markets can still take place.
- Government on the 17th of July, 2008 passed a Cabinet paper for CDM unit to be developed at the MoE. Its responsibilities are as follows:
 - Establishment of a steering committee
 - Engagement of consultants to begin formulation of strategies and national action plans to take full advantage of the opportunities for Fiji
- Steering committee to be selected from the existing CC steering Committee members
- Engagement of the Private Sector is crucial in the following sectors:
 - Avoided Deforestation – avoided emissions.
 - Reforestation/Afforestation – sequester emissions.
 - Biomass conversion – avoided emissions.
 - Energy and resource sector –avoided emissions

CONVENTION BIODIVERSITY DIVERSITY PROTOCOL BY DR. PAULO VANUALAILAI(IN ABSENCE OF DR. PATRICIA KAILOLA)

The overarching aim of the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) is the conservation and sustainable use of biological resources. The Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety establishes a regulatory framework to control the harm arising from Genetically Modified Organism (GMOs) on biodiversity and human health. Biological resources, both habitats and species, are being critically threatened. Key habitats are being lost at a rapid rate. For example a third of coral reefs are expected to be lost within 10– 15 years and over half the land area of mangroves, the coral reef neighbour, have been destroyed in last thirty years. Species are disappearing at a rate 50 – 100 times the natural rate. 34,000 plant and 5,200 animal species face extinction, and 30% of the principle breeds of farm animals are now subject to the high risk of extinction.

CBD makes commitments to integrate the sustainable use and conservation of biodiversity into national and international decision-making, including:

- Scientific and technical cooperation: including access to and transfer of biotechnology.
- Regulatory measures: On access to genetic resources. Control of risks derived from organisms modified through biotechnology.
- Natural resource management: Establishment of protected areas and rehabilitation. Restoration of degraded ecosystems and threatened species. Prevention/control and eradication of alien species which threaten biodiversity.
- Shared benefits from genetic resources: recognising national sovereignty and ensuring access to biological resources is based on "mutually agreed terms" subject to "prior informed consent".
- Traditional knowledge: recognition of the role of indigenous and local communities, ensuring that such groups receive a share in the benefits obtained from their use and conservation, further to "respect, preserve and maintain" their knowledge and practices.
- Provision of financial resources: targeted to CDB related activities.

Dr. Paulo further explained the underlying principles, Fiji ratification status and obligations of Fiji under the UNCBD



Dr Paulo Vanualailai presenting on the UNFCCC.

CONVENTION ON DESERTIFICATION BY MR. LEONE LIMALEVU

The Convention to Combat Desertification seeks to not only tackle the impacts of desertification but also to mitigate the effects of droughts. Under the convention desertification refers to dry land areas vulnerable to over-exploitation and inappropriate land-use as a result of poverty, political instability, deforestation, overgrazing and bad irrigation. Currently the livelihoods of over 1.2 billion people are threatened or at risk because of drought and desertification, impacting 110 countries.

Over 250 million people are directly affected by desertification, and about one billion people in over one hundred countries are at risk. These people include many of the world's poorest, most marginalized and politically weak citizens.

Drawing on past lessons, the Convention states that these programmes must adopt a democratic, bottom-up approach. They should emphasize popular participation and the creation of an "enabling environment" designed to enable local people to reverse land degradation through self-help.

However, governments remain responsible for creating this enabling environment. They must make politically sensitive changes, such as decentralizing authority, improving land tenure systems, and empowering women, farmers and pastoralists.

Affected countries are to address the causes and establish strategies to tackle desertification, including:

- Facilitate awareness and participation in local communities
- Enhance legislation
- Introducing their own strategies in combating the effects of desertification, including enhanced hydrological and climatologically capabilities, policy frameworks, participation and regular review processes

Developed countries are committed to support affected countries through provision of substantial resources and promoting access to technology. They should also promote access to appropriate technologies, knowledge and know-how.

Mr. Limalevu further explained the underlying principles, reports already submitted, Fiji ratification status, and obligations of Fiji under the UNCCD

DAY 1: SESSION 3: NCSA CONCEPT

As regards NCSA , the international consultant , Ashis Mohapatra maintained that objective of NCSA's was to identify country level priorities and needs for capacity building to address global environmental issues, in particular the three Rio Convention obligations that addresses biological diversity, climate change, and land degradation, with the aim of catalyzing domestic and/ or externally assisted action to meet those needs in a coordinated and planned manner and also briefly discussed the steps involved in the NCSA – Inception, stocktaking, thematic assessment, crosscutting analysis, capacity action plan & NCSA report

DAY 1: SESSION 4: UNDP-GEF CONTRIBUTION TO CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

UNDP Deputy Resident Representative Mr. Toily Kurbanov gave a brief presentation of the UNDP approach to capacity development .He briefly explained the concept of capacity , system approach (the three layers- individual level, Organizational level and Enabling Environment Level and the capacity development process as identified by UNDP

DAY 1: SESSION 5: PRESENTATION BY THE SECRETARIATS OF THE CONVENTIONS

The Director of the Department of Environment Mr. Epeli Nasome briefly spoke on the concept of the workshop, reasons for holding a capacity development workshop and the NCSA process and introduced the facilitators to the participants


DAY 1: SESSION 6: BRAINSTORMING & QUESTIONS & ANSWERS SESSION

Participants agreed on the general approach to NCSA

- Ensuring national ownership, leadership and policy commitment and that built capacities are sustained;
- Adjusting the programme to the local context;
- Utilizing existing coordinating mechanisms and structures where appropriate
- Making use of provisions and obligations of the Conventions
- Promoting comprehensive participation
- Adopting a holistic approach to capacity building
- Adopting a long-term approach to capacity building within the broader sustainable development context

DAY 2: SESSION 7: AN OUTLINE OF NCSA –THEMATIC ASSESSMENT & CROSS CUTTING PROCESS

International consultant, Ashis Mohapatra spoke on objectives of the three Thematic Assessments is to analyze the country's obligations and opportunities from each MEA, and the country's performance and achievements to date. He said that thematic Assessment is a succinct picture of "where we are now", including strengths and constraints in implementing the conventions, as well as priority capacity needs.



He also defined the cross cutting issues as those which cut across more than one convention and objective of the Cross-cutting Analysis is to assess capacity issues, needs and opportunities that cut across the conventions. This includes identification of common needs and possible synergies that could be achieved in the country by addressing requirements across two or more themes. This step results in a list of priority national capacity needs and opportunities for synergies. It may also identify possible capacity development actions that can be refined for the Action Plan.

DAY 2: SESSION 8: AN OUTLINE OF THE STOCKTAKE BASELINE REPORT OF RIO CONVENTION OBLIGATION IN FIJI

The national consultants spoke on the actions taken in Fiji for implementation of these conventions based the stock take undertaken by them covering areas like:

- Commitments
- Initial national Communication
- Vulnerability and adoption
- National activities
- Regional activities
- Constraints etc

The Stock take process discussions were to list all related initiatives (ongoing and previous) with short description of each exercise which is intended to be broad and inclusive and aims to ensure that the NCSA builds all past experience, all lessons learnt, and all existing country-specific analyses

The issues highlighted are listed in **Annex-** Responses from the floor in regard to these issues include the following:

- Most of the issues are relative in all sectors (stakeholders)
- Cross cutting issues are most significant with UNCCCD & CBD
- UNFCCC seemed to lack implementation when SPREP facilitated the PICCAP

DAY 2: SESSION 9: ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Some constraints identified during the discussions as attached in Annex 3: Issues of Discussion at the 2 day Capacity Development Inception Workshop.
are:

- Lack of Appropriate Mandates
- Policy Linkages
- Duplication of works
- Feedback Mechanisms and an need to strengthen Reporting Requirement
- Financial Access and Support
- Institutional Knowledge and Redundancy
- Capacity Enhancement / Mobilization
- Research Framework / Strategy

- Integrated Approach to Conventions
- Low Level of Awareness and Participation
- Lack of Training and low availability of specialist training and courses at local university and institution.
- A need to strengthen coordination and network from focal point with other implementing agencies and stakeholders.
- Poor Media Utilization
- High Staff Turnover
- Most datas based on assumption and most countries lack analytical and qualitative tool, information and data for assessment.
- Limited technical expertise
- Meeting basic needs and financial requirement at the grassroot level often takes precedence over any effort to conserve and sustainable development.

ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION POINTS

Ps. note Focal Point in the table below is referred to Department of Environment, the focal point for CBD and UNFCCC and Ministry of Agriculture (Landuse and Resource Planning Division), the focal point for the UNCCD.

ACTION	AGENCY	CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
Outreach	Focal Point	Joint outreach Programmes, linking Rio-Conventions to Sustainable development strategy in public awareness. More use of media for awareness
Awareness raising	Focal Point in partnership with relevant key stakeholders. (Min of Education), NGOs, Academic Institution) and Media.	Targeting high-level decision makers and the general public through utilization of media. UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD be linked to sustainable development strategies for politicians. Inclusion into the school curricular.
Specific Legislation to combat climate change	Focal Point (DoE)	Should be brought to the notice of Government at Ministerial level for formulation of legislation.
Prioritization of activities; complementarity; mainstreaming into existing policies.	Focal Points	Enabling activities Inter-linkages case studies NCSA. Policy formulation and coordination, joint preparation for negotiation, integrated implementation Strategies.

ACTION	AGENCY	CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT
Multi-stakeholder participation	Department of Environment & Focal Points for conventions	Strengthened ownership, information and experience sharing across levels (national & local)
Identify and reduce overlaps of duties	Department of Environment & Focal Points for conventions	Reduction in duplication of efforts and enhancement of efficiency
Community participation in the preventative activities, as well as awareness raising	Department of Environment & Focal Points for conventions	Ownership of community
Conduct study and research on the effects on three thematic areas	Department of Environment & Focal Points for conventions	More awareness and knowledge
Feedback on Implementation	Department of Environment & Focal Points for conventions	More effective monitoring & Evaluation mechanism

Most of the discussions generated toward the end of the meeting were geared toward identifying some of the mitigation options and responses for Fiji in regard to the issues of implementation. Suggestions from the floor in regard to the three conventions was one of project sustainability. These include comments such as:

- Policy that generates income
- CDM can be the answer to capacity building in human and financial resources

WRAP UP AND CONCLUSION

The National Project Coordinator Ms. Senivasa Waqairamasi informed participants on the important issues those were discussed and raised during the workshop. The Director of Department of Energy (Ms.Makareta Sauturaga while wrapping up emphasized the need for due implementation of the issues so that the various point raised and debated during the workshop do not remain only on paper. She also appreciated the work done by the Environment Department in arranging the workshop and also having plans to take it further and conduct in-house training in key Ministries/departments so that those who missed out the workshop due to some reason or other could become familiar with the concepts of Capacity Development, NCSA etc



Senivasa Waqairamasi, National Project Coordinator taking notes at the workshop

Annex 1: Agenda of the Workshop (Main Theme & Sessions)

MAIN THEMES AND SESSIONS

Day 1

Registration:

8:30 – 9:00am

9:00 – 9:15am **Workshop Official Opening and Welcome**

9:15 – 9:30am: Concept of the Capacity Development Workshop (in brief) and Introduction of workshop facilitators and participants (Facilitated by the Director of Environment, Mr Epeli Nasome).

9:30 – 9:45am: Self Introduction of Participants & Group Photo Session

Refreshments: 9:45 – 10:15am

Session 1:

10:15 - 11.00am: Concepts of Capacity, Capacity Development etc. Capacity Development Process -systemic, institutional & individual (Presented by the NCSA International Consultant, Mr Ashis Mohapatra)

Session 2:

11:00- 11.45pm: The three RIO Convention obligations (Presented by the NCSA local consultants, Dr Paulo Vanualailai and Mr Leone Limalevu).

**Session 3**

11:45 – 12:30pm: National Capacity Self Assessment Concept
(Presented by the NCSA International Consultant, Mr Ashis Mohapatra)

Session 4

12:30 – 1:00 UNDP-GEF Contribution to Capacity Development
(Presented by the UNDP Environment Programme Analyst, Ms Emma Mario.

Lunch: 1:00 – 2:00pm

Session 5:

2:00- 3:00pm: Presentation by the Secretariats of the Conventions
(Director of Environment, Mr. Epli Nasome and the Principal Research Officer Landuse, Agriculture, Mr Osea Bolawaqatabu).

Refreshment: 3:00 – 3:15pm

Session 6:

3:15- 3:45pm – Brainstorming, soliciting views and Gathering thoughts on Capacity Development Strategy & Action Plan

Day 2**Session 7:**

9:00 – 10:00am An outline of the Stocktake Baseline Report of Rio Convention obligation in Fiji: issues (Presented by the NCSA local consultant, Dr Paulo Vanualailai, Mr. Leone Limalevu) and National Project Coordinator, Ms Senivasa Waqairamasi

Refreshment

10:00 – 10:15am

Session 8

10:15 – 11:00am An outline of NCSA Processes (The Stocktake, thematic assessment and crosscutting Process (Presented by the NCSA International Consultant, Mr Ashis Mohapatra).

Session 9:

11:00- 12:15pm Roundtable Discussions (Facilitated by the NCSA Local and International Consultants).



Session 10

12:15- 12:45pm Summaries and Conclusion (Facilitated by Chair, Rapporteur and Consultants)

Closing

12:45 – 1:00pm Closing

Lunch

1:00-2:00pm

Annex 2: Key note address of Mr. Lekh Ram Vayeshnoi, Minister for Local government, Housing, Urban Development and Environment, Government of Fiji

Opening Statement for the Honorable Minister, Lekh Ram Vayeshnoi, Ministry of Local Government, Urban Development & Housing and Environment.


OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT INCEPTION WORKSHOP

Southern Cross Hotel, Suva.
29th – 30th July, 2008
9:00am – 10:00am

A Big Bula Vinaka and a warm welcome to the participants and management representatives of line Government Ministries, Regional Organizations and Academic Institutions participating in today's Capacity Development Inception Workshop. I thank the Facilitators and Resource People from the Department of Environment, particularly acknowledging the presence of the International Consultant from India Mr Ashis Mohapatra who is here to conduct the workshop. Last but not least I also welcome the media representatives.

Ladies and Gentleman

It gives me great pleasure to be here today to address you in the opening of the Capacity Development Inception Workshop organized by the Department of Environment in my Ministry. The Department of Environment under the National Capacity Self Assessment Project has been tasked to assess Fiji's capacity to be able to implement obligation addressing three Rio Conventions. These are the United Nation Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and the United Nation Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).



The UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD are three of the many regional and international agreements and Conventions that have come into force over the last two decades. Each places additional demands and pressure on the limited capacity of participating countries. This lack of capacity has been identified as a key obstacle to the effective implementation of the Conventions. Moreover, capacity constraints have been increasingly recognized as a main obstacle to sustainable development in many countries.

Today, we live in an era dominated with industrial developments, technological innovations and increasing urbanization. We like to believe that we can sustain our competitive economy and high consumptive lifestyle without creating any ill consequences. But today there is growing evidence showing that the world we are living in is indeed small and fragile. The continuing decline of biodiversity and resources that create disruptions to our ecosystems is one of the major issues facing the world today.

Activities such as land cultivation, forest clearing, carried out in some parts of the world for the purposes of development, human settlement, agriculture or industrialization, are done extensively without considering the full effects on the environment. This not only will threaten the survival of susceptible biological species, it also disrupts the ecosystem functions such as the hydrological cycle; making the ecosystem more vulnerable to drastic climate changes. The damage to coastal communities from floods and storms, for example, can increase dramatically particularly where protective wetland habitats have been lost or degraded.

The three Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, UNCCD and CBD) are initiations by the International community to address some of the above mentioned global issues and put in place measures to address them. Fiji being a signatory to the Rio Conventions is obligated to implement initiatives to address Climate Change and its impacts, Conservation of our Biodiversity, Desertification and the Degradation of our Land Resources. In order to be able to better implement the obligations requirement under the three Rio Conventions, it is vital that we first self examine our current capacity, strengths and constraints, and identify the gaps and capacity needed to be able to better implement our obligation requirements. This I understand is the concept underlined in the National Capacity Self Assessment Project and the Capacity Development concept to be presented in today's workshop.

In the field of development the term "capacity development" is relatively new, emerging in the 1980's. Despite being new, "Capacity Development" has become the central purpose of technical cooperation in the 1990's. "Capacity Development" is seen as complementary to other ideas that dominated

development thinking and still play an important role over the past four decades. Many development practitioners believe intuitively, that all developments involve some sort of capacity development. Clearly, development is about people and their societies interfacing and developing within their environment.

There are several definitions of “capacity development” .However towards achieving millennium development goals, UNDP has defined “Capacity” as the ability of individuals, institutions and societies to perform functions, solve problems, and set and achieve objectives in a sustainable manner. Capacity Development is thereby the process through which individuals, organizations and societies obtain, strengthen and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives over time.

Your participation today, as representatives of key stakeholders who either directly or indirectly implement work addressing each of the three Rio Conventions, is a positive step towards identifying priority areas of environmental concern for Fiji that is in need of capacity development. Your presence also confirms your support and commitment to the initiative by the Department of Environment to carry out the capacity self assessment process of the Rio Conventions obligations.

With this note, I wish the NCSA project and the Capacity Development Inception Workshop to be conducted today a success and hope that the discussion and presentation in this workshop would benefit each one in enhancing your understanding on the capacity development concept. I hereby officially open the Capacity Development Inception Workshop.

Vinaka

Annex 3: Issues of Discussion at the 2 day Capacity Development Inception Workshop.

Ms Sandeep Kaur of the US Embassy: Request an elaboration on building capacity at the individual and institutional level. To what extent does building capacity at the individual level also build institutional capacity?

Most Pacific Island Countries have signed / ratified onto the UN conventions but have failed to meet their obligation. There are various reasons for this and one obvious one is the lack of national and government capacity. She added that more resources need to be allocated to ensure that appropriate levels of capacity are developed.

On the CBD presentation she said that while it is critical to highlight issues, we also need to look at in the past years as well as identify the gaps.

She added that approximately 13 million (Austral Report) was given to NGOs for Biodiversity conservation but the report states that Fiji's Biodiversity is in crisis. The concern should be for government to work more closely with NGOs through the MOU's to achieve national objectives / priorities. Better coordination is required between Government and NGO activities in Fiji. This could be done through MOUs and strengthening of reporting requirement.

Mr Inoke Ratukalou of the Secretariat of Pacific Community added in his comment that the presentation have highlighted on a problem of collating and gathering data. Mr Ratukalou noted that for UNCCD there is an existence of the Landcare Steering Committee which consists of key stakeholders. NGO's also are part of Landcare Committee. He further adds that for the last 10 years, Climate Change Country Team has existed and lots of information's were collated to discuss way forward to each convention. The availability of such committee could be taken an advantage off in terms of collating information's and data's.

With Logging and marketing of natural resources – Forestry and Agriculture is to balance economy and conservation. Pushing for economy has finished all flat lands. We need to tread carefully if we need to expand focusing on economy.

With UNCCD, there are very little funds and very little support for NGO's to access funds to further address terrestrial resources. Highlighted WWF whose focus is to engage community to sustain resources and reduce risk of over resource use.

There is very little window of opportunities in the UNCCD compared to the other two thematic areas of the convention.

While with the Landuse Resource Planning Development Unit of Agriculture, they did a Landcare Review for Fiji in which they came up with projects to alleviate problems they have.

Paulo Vanualailai, NCSA – UNFCCC Consultant emphasized that UNFCCC has been given a low priority in the national agenda. Its one of the reasons why we have not done a lot to address Climate Change. It is also due to lack of technical expertise, the non-operation of a Climate Change Unit, a Climate Change Steering Committee which needs to be revived. Climate Change is a crosscutting issue that comes down to Lack of Integration with align Ministries, Lack of management approach is very important for the

convention implementation. We should only look at what is relevant to us to identify relevant adaptation and mitigation measures in place.

Do we have the resources considering what is in the National Planning Review, Finance, and what is there with NLTB ect. The fact is that within each thematic area (CBD, UNFCC and UNCCD), there is lack of respond to the convention obligation as well as a lack of relaying in a report back to the Convention Secretariats on the real capacity of convention implementation. He further adds that in the project of matrix for UNFCCC, only 8 out of the list of many are implemented in Fiji and there is a problem in not reporting back on time. The question to ask, Is Capacity Development a National Priority for Fiji or is this the tip of an ice-berg where the root cause of the problem is Finance or Reporting.

There are immense opportunities that we loose in billions of dollars in energy alone each year. To address such loss of renewable energy and revenue for government, we should generate policies that generate income.

He further adds that lack of Technical Expertise is also a capacity constraint at the Department of Environment. Degree graduates come into the department and are quickly siphoned out to other Department, Regional organization and NGO's.

Destruction of terrestrial and marine has been highlighted but need to define boundary of terrestrial and marine.

Fine Lao of PACE at USP: What is relevant for the NCSA Assessment is to identify what are some capacity needs and capacity constraints for the government line Ministries and other organization facing in terms of addressing the three Rio Convention Obligations.

Government contribution and involvement in regards to Policy Formulation and Coordination should be acknowledged. There is also lack of acknowledgement of the contribution of Private Sectors.

Samuela Lagataki of the Forestry Department highlights that forest contributes a lot to Climate Change because of its role as sink to absorb carbon. He further adds that little has been done due to little understanding on what has to be done in this area. The question is, how can we action what is needed on the ground and implement things that will meet the objective.

There is capacity need for inclusion of Forestry related courses ect at the local institutions such as USP and FIT. This is a capacity constraint at the Individual level and most have to go abroad to attain a degree in Forestry. The inclusions of such courses need to be initiated with local institution such as USP for an inclusion of Forestry degree courses at USP. Only certificate level courses offered at the Forestry Training Centre. This capacity constraint has been discussed at the recent Heads of Forestry meetings.

Lots of datas are based on assumptions, most countries do not have the analytical, and qualitative information's to help in assessment.

Political Will is also an area being discussed a lot. The endorsement and passing of the CDM Cabinet paper in parliament is a positive sign of political will.

We can take advantage of the available mode of communication and awareness to take down information's to communities.

National Code of Logging Practice encourages sustainable practices with the issue of Licenses from Forestry Department.

For the Forestry Dept in the last decade, the focus has been shifting rapidly into conservation. The difficulty lies in the Land Tenure. There are legislations and policies for areas not supposed to be logged. The biggest conservation areas are the Sovi Basin.

We must be fully aware of what we are conserving and why we are conserving them. What are the benefits of conservation to landowners. More awareness is needed with Landowners. There has to be a way to relay to Finance, National Planning and a committee to set up to look into this. The real issues are faced with Landowners since meeting financial needs takes precedence over effort to conserve. The basic question to answer is: Are we protecting and conserving for Landowners later use and what benefit does conservation give to them and the nation as a whole, who will be the beneficiaries in the end.

Jens Kruger of SOPAC – Maintains that the lack of technical expert can be addressed. As an example, he highlights the case of Kiribati in which SOPAC assisted with technical assistance in terms of Climate Change Sea Level Rise Monitoring Project due to Kiribati being a low lying atoll. SOPAC has 14 tide gauges in all around Pacific and use that information to project future climate by looking at current sea level so to establish qualitative baseline data. SOPAC also working with Kiribati sea level rise data. SOPAC have further helped Kribati look at other resource area for mining sand so less impact on the environment on removal.

SOPAC also looks into protected areas and marine areas when addressing the CBD Conventions. Lots of potential areas are mostly in coastal areas a huge exclusive zone but very little on our seabed's and seamounts. Seamount mining in PNG, Cook Islands, NZ is closed due to overexploitation.

SOPAC also addresses UNCCD. It does reclamation at the intertidal areas in certain project

Peremo Caginivula of Carbon Fiji Ltd – In Conservation – theres a lot of crosscutting issues and are interlinked. There is a shift towards the market to solve problems. The Clean Development Mechanism out of the two thematic areas: UNNCD and CBD can generate revenue. Focus should now be towards market driven. For Carbon Trading, the voluntary market is faster growing and across the three thematic areas, CDM can contribute to capacity building.

Usaia Tukana of National Roads – Considering the issues that has been discussed for the day adds that all projects undertaken needs to access good road services. He stated that a lot of things/ projects done are cut off since it does not reach the people. A very important component that needs to be considered is in the Rural Landuse Policy and he further suggests that these need to be adopted and legislated. He further highlights that he has been in many similar workshops and meetings attended by the same participants as present in today's workshop, however what is lacking is that there is need for proper

networking, interrelation and coordination between government department and other organization so to build capacity.

Leone limalevu the UNCCD Consultant for NCSA– Emphasized that with limited resources; we need integration and sharing of ideas between government and private sectors. He highlighted an example with USP working closely with all stakeholders and with the community in terms of sharing knowledge of lesson learnt from projects and highlighted as an example about the project in Cakaudrove and Votua on Water Catchments.

Manoa Malani at the Ministry of Tourism: Emphasized that the leading Ministry for Government is the Ministry of Finance and the Department of National Planning. He adds that the concept in the Two days-Capacity Development Inception Workshop is to be integrated in their plan or vice versa. Most times the Plan by each Department does not eventuate because it is not included as a priority with the Ministry of National Planning and Finance because it is not in accordance to the national priority of generating and maximizing revenue for government. The Ministry of Finance and National Planning needs to be roped in to the process of Capacity Development, Implementation and Budget of conservation issues.

Adding to Peremos' comment on CDM, he stated that the National Planning and Finance is important for creating policies that creates revenue for government. We should ensure that the convention obligation and implementation is achieved at the same time ensure that the activities done to achieve the convention obligation also create market and generate revenue. This is in line with National Planning and Ministry of Finance stand to save money for government and for any initiation it is important to address it right from the grassroot level.

Some issues discussed can have actions and alternatives raised. For instance information such as the US offering \$45,000 per credit for CDM is good information to know. A more in depth analysis is needed in the report such as to what is happening in other countries, what is the cost and benefit of encouraging conservation etc.

Akisi Bolabola of WWF agrees with S Kaur of US Embassy in one of her comments stating that there is a need to strengthen coordination from Environment Department. Second issue is on Land Based Consent and Land Based activities which is degrading the environment. There is lack of dissemination of information such as buffer zones because communities do not know.

Annex 5: UNFCCC Powerpoint Slides

Ministry of Environment

Fiji's Obligation to the United Nations Framework
Convention on Climate Change UNFCCC

NCSA WORKSHOP- 29/07/08

Dr. Paulo Vanualilai, REIA

Ph.D & MSc Env Science & Coastal Engrg, Ibaraki University, Japan
BA-Geography and Management (USP)

Principal Consultant
GREENPAC

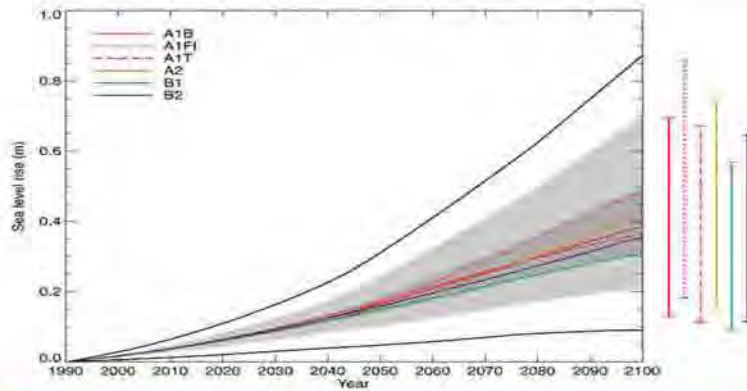
24/07/08



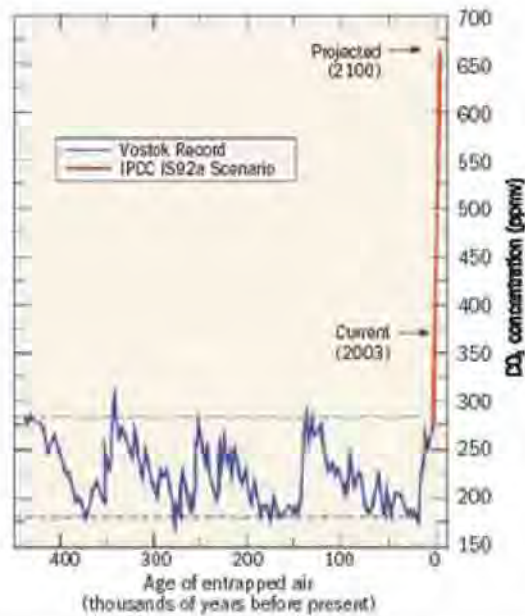
To reduce the impact of climate change we must reduce our emissions of GHG globally and do everything we can to absorb GHG's.

UNDERLYING PRINCIPLES

In 2001, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2000) issued its third assessment report (TAR) on global warming trends and sea level changes. According to the report global mean sea level for full range of special report on emission scenarios (SPRES), a projection of sea level rise from 0.09m to 0.88m between 1990 to 2100 was predicted.



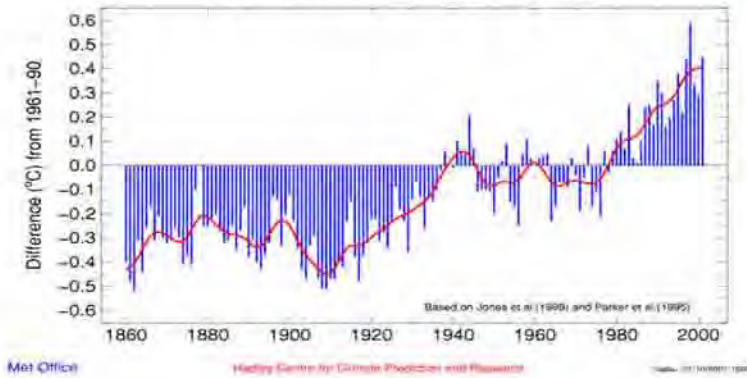
1.1 Table 1.0: Effect of higher global temperatures is the rise in SLs (Thermal expansion of oceans & melting of ice).



There is no doubt that climate change is here and we're all responsible to some extent.



Global Average Near-Surface Temperatures
Annual anomalies, 1860 – Aug 2001



History and Structure

Fiji - Ratification status

- Date of signature of UNFCCC: 09 October 1992
- Date of ratification UNFCCC: 25 February 1993
- Date of entry into force UNFCCC: 21 March 1994
- Date of signature of Kyoto Protocol: 17 September 1998
- Date of ratification Kyoto Protocol: 17 September 1998
- Date of entry into force Kyoto Protocol: 16 February 2005



History and Structure



In 1992 at the “Earth Summit” in Rio Brazil the member countries of the United Nations agreed that the concept of global warming was real

The UNFCCC was established to co-ordinate this response.

History and Structure



In 1997 the “Kyoto protocol” was established.

This set the mechanism by which all countries would play their part in the process.

Annex 1 and Non-Annex 1 countries negotiated.

Fiji is a Non Annex 1 country

Annex 1 Target - 5% below 1990 levels by 2012

Classification of Membership



•The Convention divides countries into three main groups with commitments varying according to their classification.

•Annex 1 Parties include the industrialized countries that were members of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in 1992 along with countries with economies transition (EIT).

•Annex 11 Parties consist of OECD members of Annex 1 excluding the EIT Parties. These Parties are required to provide funding to developing country Parties to undertake emissions reduction activities and to help them to adapt to the adverse effects of climate change

•The third group is the Non-Annex 1 Parties and includes the developing country Parties. The commitments for developing country Parties, including Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are set out in below and include:

Obligations of Fiji





Commitments for Non-Annex 1 Parties as set out in Article 41.

All Parties, taking into account their common but differentiated responsibilities and their specific national and regional development priorities, objectives and circumstances, shall:

(a) Develop, periodically update, publish and make available to the Conference of the Parties, in accordance with Article 12, national inventories of **anthropogenic emissions by sources** and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, using comparable methodologies to be agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties;

b) **Formulate, implement, publish and regularly update** national and, where appropriate, regional programmes containing measures to **mitigate** climate change by addressing anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, and **measures to facilitate adequate adaptation to climate change**;

(c) **Promote and cooperate in the development, application and diffusion**, including transfer, of technologies, practices and processes that control, reduce or prevent anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol in all relevant sectors, including the energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management sectors;




Cont'd of commitments

(f) Take climate change considerations into account, to the extent feasible, in their relevant social, economic and environmental policies and actions, and employ appropriate methods, for example **impact assessments**, formulated and determined nationally, with a view to minimizing adverse effects on the economy, on public health and on the quality of the environment, of projects or measures undertaken by them to mitigate or adapt to climate change;

(g) **Promote and cooperate in scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and other research, systematic observation and development of data archives related to the climate system** and intended to further the understanding and to reduce or eliminate the remaining uncertainties regarding the causes, effects, magnitude and timing of climate change and the economic and social consequences of various response strategies;

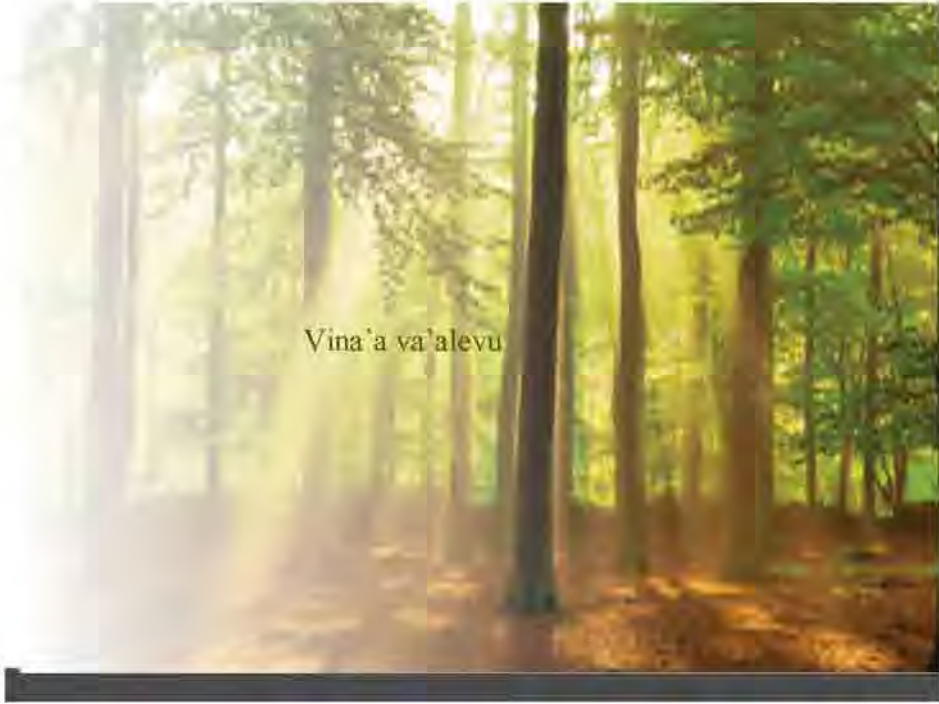
(h) **Promote and cooperate in the full, open and prompt exchange of relevant scientific, technological, technical, socio-economic and legal information related to the climate system and climate change**, and to the economic and social consequences of various response strategies;

(i) **Promote and cooperate in education, training and public awareness** related to climate change and encourage the widest participation in this process, including that of non-governmental organizations; and



Cont'd of commitments

- **Article 12. Communication of Information Related to Implementation**
- 1. In accordance with Article 4, paragraph 1, each Party shall communicate to the Conference of the Parties, through the secretariat, the following elements of information:
- (a) **A national inventory of anthropogenic emissions** by sources and removals by sinks of all greenhouse gases not controlled by the Montreal Protocol, to the extent its capacities permit, using comparable methodologies to be promoted and agreed upon by the Conference of the Parties;
- (b) **A general description of steps taken or envisaged by the Party to implement the Convention**; and
- (c) Any other information that the Party considers relevant to the achievement of the objective of the Convention and suitable for inclusion in its **communication**, including, if feasible, material relevant for calculations of global emission trends.



Vina'a va'alevu

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFCCC

**FIJI'S STOCKTAKE OF WHAT FIJI HAS DONE IN RESPONSE TO THE
CONVENTION**

Dr. Paulo Vanualailai
*Ph.D & MSc in Env. Science & Engrg-Japan
BA Geogr & Mngt-USP*

30/06/08

What MoE has done

- **Inventory of greenhouse gas emission**
First national GHG inventory -identify emission for negotiation
- **Vulnerability Impact Assessment**
Impact of sea level rise, climate variability, vegetation change, impact on human life
- **Identification of adaptation and mitigation options**
Soft and hard measures-National action and policy
- **Preparation of National Communication to the convention**
*Summary of Fiji's obligation under the convention
2005 First National Communications*
- **Response to Kyoto Protocol**
Clean Development Mechanism

ISSUES: Inventory of greenhouse gas emission

- Compared to global net emission, Fiji is insignificant and therefore has capacity to solve its own domestic problem whilst on the other hand, specific focus and emphasis should be realigned to the area of vulnerability assessment and adaptation (mitigation options).
- A lot of information on emission of moisture content of wet and dry areas are based on assumptions, these need to be verified in a more detailed analysis
- Moisture content in dry and wet seasons is yet to be specified, since the calorific values in the area of fuel wood, copra and baggage are based on wet seasons
- The energy sector is the major source of GHG emissions in Fiji, with emissions dominated by the transport and energy industries. Therefore, to have a significant reduction in the national emissions of GHG gases, mitigation measures will need to target the release of carbon dioxide from this sector.

ISSUES: Vulnerability Impact Assessment

- Fiji is an oceanic island nation and due to the coarseness of the spatial resolution, there is inadequacy of existing general circulation models (GCM) in forecasting possible climate change scenarios in Fiji since small-scale weather systems are non-existent in the models
- Lack of historical quantitative and qualitative scientific data, provides restrictions for appropriate assessment and analysis, thus is a need for additional funding to conduct in depth vulnerability analysis "in most areas, in particular coastal zones, water resources, agriculture and the health sector" is imperative
- Lack of governmental (political will) to facilitate sustainability of national steering committee as most of the work are done on "ad hoc basis" in particular realignment of critical stakeholders to provide information, support and advice to the ongoing facilitation and implementation. For example, related stakeholders in academic and technical institutions to provide human and financial resources to gather, store, and analyse existing data (e.g. Capacity building of Fiji Meteorology Department)
- Lack of appropriate integrated approach in resource management and governance (especially issues dealing with complex land tenureship)
- The need for additional human and financial resources to implement the appropriate adaptation options in coastal zones, water resources, agriculture and the health sector

ISSUES: National Policy and Actions on Climate Change

There is no legislation governing the major thematic area of Climate change except Fiji's Climate change Policy that in generic explains the governing policy for implementation through institutional framework, there are

- Existing environmental legislation such as the Fiji Environmental Management Act has managed to include specific acts and legislations critical in fulfilling Fiji's obligation outline in **Agenda 42 (f)** in the area of impact assessment, but overall lacks appropriate tools to mandate compulsory facilitation and implementation of **Agenda 42 (a) – (j)**
- There is very little utilization of academic, research or regional environmental institutions to provide substantive support in the process: (lack of coordination, lack of manpower due to lack of finance for continual project implementation at the focal point) – **Article 42 (g), (h) & (i)**
- Lack of policy coordination and institutional support to satisfy regular reporting requirements implicit in the National Communication process (this is relevant in the drafting of the Fiji Climate Change Policy) – **Article 42 (j)**

ISSUES: National Policy and Actions on Climate Change(Cont'd)

- Lack of expertise/knowledge in implementing test methodologies and establishing baseline conditions at the national level with focal point of implementation (e.g., Ministry of Environment MoE). – Article 42 (g) & (h)
- Lack of country-specific data and inadequate/inappropriate statistics for simulation models despite existence of technical support governmental, academic institutions, regional crop agencies and ; – Article 42 (g) & (h)
- Lack of public awareness of climate change issues and inadequate sensitisation to anthropogenic factors that exacerbate vulnerability with critical stakeholders such as agriculture, tourism, health, forestry and fishery in government and private sectors – Article 42 (i)
- Inadequate private sector support, demonstrated lack of commitment to climate change issues in the area of renewable energy sources, and landuse management for carbon trade market – Article 42 (c)

ISSUES: Kyoto Protocol on Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

- Very little work has been carried out to facilitate this very important element of the Kyoto protocol except that most of the initiatives are being undertaken by the private sector.
- No clear mandate from secretariat (focal point)
- Lack of coordination between critical stakeholders and government
- No regular arrangement and monitoring
- Non-sustainability of project under CDM in the Pacific



RECOMMENDATION

- There should be a realignment of related stakeholders in academic and technical institutions to provide human and financial resources to gather, store, and analyse existing data (e.g. Capacity building of Fiji Meteorology Department).
- The need for implementing appropriate integrated approach in resource management and governance (especially issues dealing with complex land tenureship)
- The need for additional finance resources to implement the appropriate adaptation options in coastal zones, water resources, agriculture and the health sector
- Need to strengthen policy coordination and institutional support to satisfy regular reporting requirements implicit in the National Communication process (this is relevant in the drafting of the Fiji Climate Change Policy).

Recommendation (cont'd)

- Re-activate and sustain of an Inter- disciplinary Committee which include the national focal point for climate change, biodiversity and desertification, representatives of the energy sector, both public and private, the relevant government ministries and agencies engaged in sustainable development policy planning, as well as institutions like the University of the South Pacific and Institute of Applied Science.
- Public Awareness to fully engage all stakeholders, including the private sector and community organizations: and in particular the engagement of NGOs such as WWF, WCS, PCDF & Live & Learn Etc. to support the MoE in implementation of its obligation under the convention was also activated in 1994 (e.g., engagement of the main local newspapers Fiji Times for periodical publications of CC brochures for children).
- Alignment to established consortium of Scientific and Research Institutions to consolidate and enhance the knowledge base in the related branches of science (using of crop regional crop agencies such as SOPAC, USP, SPREP & SPC).



VINA'A VA'ALEVU

Annex 6: UNCCCD Powerpoint Slides



**THE UNITED NATIONS
CONVENTION TO COMBAT
DESERTIFICATION (UNCCD)**

Convention Obligations

Leone Lima'evu
29th – 30th July 2008

NCSA Workshop



Use of terms – Article 1

Objectives – Article 2

Principles – Article 3


General Obligations – Article 4

Obligations of Affected Country Parties – Article 5

Relationship with other conventions - Article 8

National Action Programmes – Article 10

Subregional and regional action programmes - Article 11







Use of terms - Article 1


For the purposes of this Convention:

(a) "desertification" means land degradation in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas resulting from various factors, including climatic variations and human activities;

(b) "combating desertification" includes activities which are part of the integrated development of land in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas for sustainable development which are aimed at:

- (i) prevention and/or reduction of land degradation;
 - (ii) rehabilitation of partly degraded land; and
 - (iii) reclamation of desertified land;
- 

- 
- 
- (c) "drought" means the naturally occurring phenomenon that exists when precipitation has been significantly below normal recorded levels, causing serious hydrological imbalances that adversely affect land resource production systems;
- (d) "mitigating the effects of drought" means activities related to the prediction of drought and intended to reduce the vulnerability of society and natural systems to drought as it relates to combating desertification;
- (e) "land" means the terrestrial bio-productive system that comprises soil, vegetation, other biota, and the ecological and hydrological processes that operate within the system;
- 

- (f) "land degradation" means reduction or loss, in arid, semi-arid and dry sub-humid areas, of the biological or economic productivity and complexity of rainfed cropland, irrigated cropland, or range, pasture, forest and woodlands resulting from land uses or from a process or combination of processes, including processes arising from human activities and habitation patterns, such as:
- (i) soil erosion caused by wind and/or water;
 - (ii) deterioration of the physical, chemical and biological or economic properties of soil; and
 - (iii) long-term loss of natural vegetation.
- 

Objective

Covered under Article 2

1. The objective of this Convention is to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought in countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, through effective action at all levels, supported by international cooperation and partnership arrangements, in the framework of an integrated approach which is consistent with Agenda 21, with a view to contributing to the achievement of sustainable development in affected areas.

2. Achieving this objective will involve long-term integrated strategies that focus simultaneously, in affected areas, on improved productivity of land, and the rehabilitation, conservation and sustainable management of land and water resources, leading to improved living conditions, in particular at the community level.

Principles – Article 3

In order to achieve the objective of this Convention and to implement its provisions, the Parties shall be guided, inter alia, by the following:

- (a) the Parties should ensure that decisions on the design and implementation of programmes to combat desertification and/or mitigate the effects of drought are taken with the participation of populations and local communities and that an enabling environment is created at higher levels to facilitate action at national and local levels;
- (b) the Parties should, in a spirit of international solidarity and partnership, improve cooperation and coordination at subregional, regional and international levels, and better focus financial, human, organizational and technical resources where they are needed;

- (c) the Parties should develop, in a spirit of partnership, cooperation among all levels of government, communities, non-governmental organizations and landholders to establish a better understanding of the nature and value of land and scarce water resources in affected areas and to work towards their sustainable use; and

- (d) the Parties should take into full consideration the special needs and circumstances of affected developing country Parties, particularly the least developed among them.

General Obligations – Article 4

1. The Parties shall implement their obligations under this Convention, individually or jointly, either through existing or prospective bilateral and multilateral arrangements or a combination thereof, as appropriate, emphasizing the need to coordinate efforts and develop a coherent long term strategy at all levels.
2. In pursuing the objective of this Convention, the Parties shall:
 - (a) adopt an integrated approach addressing the physical, biological and socio-economic aspects of the processes of desertification and drought;
 - (b) give due attention, within the relevant international and regional bodies, to the situation of affected developing country Parties with regard to international trade, marketing arrangements and debt with a view to establishing an enabling international economic environment conducive to the promotion of sustainable development;
 - (c) integrate strategies for poverty eradication into efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
 - (d) promote cooperation among affected country Parties in the fields of environmental protection and the conservation of land and water resources, as they relate to desertification and drought;
 - (e) strengthen subregional, regional and international cooperation;
 - (f) cooperate within relevant intergovernmental organizations;
 - (g) determine institutional mechanisms, if appropriate, keeping in mind the need to avoid duplication; and
 - (h) promote the use of existing bilateral and multilateral financial mechanisms and arrangements that mobilize and channel substantial financial resources to affected developing country Parties in combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought.
3. Affected developing country Parties are eligible for assistance in the implementation of the Convention.

Obligations of Affected Country Parties – Article 5

In addition to their obligations pursuant to article 4, affected country Parties undertake to:

- (a) give due priority to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought, and allocate adequate resources in accordance with their circumstances and capabilities;
- (b) establish strategies and priorities, within the framework of sustainable development plans and/or policies, to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought;
- (c) address the underlying causes of desertification and pay special attention to the socio-economic factors contributing to desertification processes;
- (d) promote awareness and facilitate the participation of local populations, particularly women and youth, with the support of nongovernmental organizations, in efforts to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought; and
- (e) provide an enabling environment by strengthening, as appropriate, relevant existing legislation and, where they do not exist, enacting new laws and establishing long-term policies and action programmes.

Relationship with other conventions - Article 8

1. The Parties shall encourage the coordination of activities carried out under this Convention and, if they are Parties to them, under other relevant international agreements, particularly the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Convention on Biological Diversity, in order to derive maximum benefit from activities under each agreement while avoiding duplication of effort. The Parties shall encourage the conduct of joint programmes, particularly in the fields of research, training, systematic observation and information collection and exchange, to the extent that such activities may contribute to achieving the objectives of the agreements concerned.

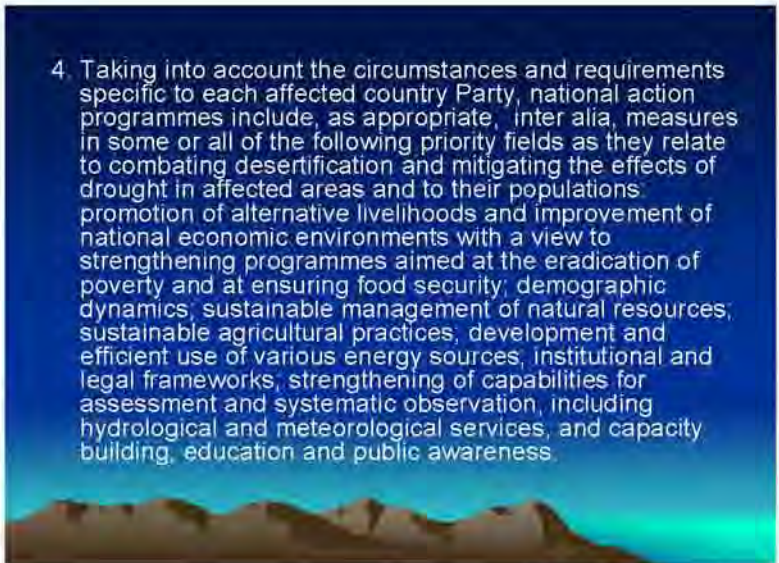
2. The provisions of this Convention shall not affect the rights and obligations of any Party deriving from a bilateral, regional or international agreement into which it has entered prior to the entry into force of this Convention for it.

National Action Programmes – Article 10

1. The purpose of national action programmes is to identify the factors contributing to desertification and practical measures necessary to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought.
2. National action programmes shall specify the respective roles of government, local communities and land users and the resources available and needed. They shall, inter alia:
 - (a) incorporate long-term strategies to combat desertification and mitigate the effects of drought, emphasize implementation and be integrated with national policies for sustainable development;
 - (b) allow for modifications to be made in response to changing circumstances and be sufficiently flexible at the local level to cope with different socio-economic, biological and geo-physical conditions;
 - (c) give particular attention to the implementation of preventive measures for lands that are not yet degraded or which are only slightly degraded;

- (d) enhance national climatological, meteorological and hydrological capabilities and the means to provide for drought early warning;
 - (e) promote policies and strengthen institutional frameworks which develop cooperation and coordination, in a spirit of partnership, between the donor community, governments at all levels, local populations and community groups, and facilitate access by local populations to appropriate information and technology;
 - (f) provide for effective participation at the local, national and regional levels of non-governmental organizations and local populations, both women and men, particularly resource users, including farmers and pastoralists and their representative organizations, in policy planning, decision-making, and implementation and review of national action programmes; and
 - (g) require regular review of, and progress reports on, their implementation.

- 
- 
3. National action programmes may include, inter alia, some or all of the following measures to prepare for and mitigate the effects of drought:
- (a) establishment and/or strengthening, as appropriate, of early warning systems, including local and national facilities and joint systems at the subregional and regional levels, and mechanisms for assisting environmentally displaced persons;
 - (b) strengthening of drought preparedness and management, including drought contingency plans at the local, national, subregional and regional levels, which take into consideration seasonal to interannual climate predictions;
 - (c) establishment and/or strengthening, as appropriate, of food security systems, including storage and marketing facilities, particularly in rural areas;
 - (d) establishment of alternative livelihood projects that could provide incomes in drought prone areas; and
 - (e) development of sustainable irrigation programmes for both crops and livestock.
- 


4. Taking into account the circumstances and requirements specific to each affected country Party, national action programmes include, as appropriate, inter alia, measures in some or all of the following priority fields as they relate to combating desertification and mitigating the effects of drought in affected areas and to their populations: promotion of alternative livelihoods and improvement of national economic environments with a view to strengthening programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty and at ensuring food security; demographic dynamics; sustainable management of natural resources; sustainable agricultural practices; development and efficient use of various energy sources; institutional and legal frameworks; strengthening of capabilities for assessment and systematic observation, including hydrological and meteorological services, and capacity building, education and public awareness.
- 



Subregional and regional action programmes - Article 11

Affected country Parties shall consult and cooperate to prepare, as appropriate, in accordance with relevant regional implementation annexes, subregional and/or regional action programmes to harmonize, complement and increase the efficiency of national programmes.


Such cooperation may include agreed joint programmes for the sustainable management of transboundary natural resources, scientific and technical cooperation, and strengthening of relevant institutions.



The End

Thank You





**THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION
TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION
(UNCCD)**

Stocktaking Report- Issues

Leone Limalevu
29th – 30th July 2008

NCSA Workshop

National Focal Point

The Land Use Section
Land Resources Planning and Development
Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Land
Resettlement

Contact:

Mr. Osea Bolawaqatabu
Acting Principal Research Officer
obolawaqatabu@govnet.gov.fj

Fiji Signed the Convention on August 26th 1998



Reporting Status

First National Report – 2000

Second National Report – 2002

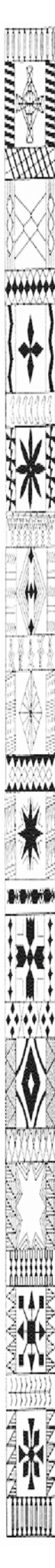
Third National Report – 2006

National Action Plan (NAP) - 2007

Key Stakeholders

The National Coordinating Body (NCB)

- (1) Ministry of Agriculture, Sugar and Resettlement (MASLR);
- (2) Ministry of Lands;
- (3) Department of Environment (DOE);
- (4) Ministry of Works;
- (5) Ministry of Forests;
- (6) National Disaster Management Office (NDMO);
- (7) Native Land Trust Board (NLTB);
- (8) Fiji Sugar Commission; and
- (9) NGO Representative



Identified causes of land degradation

Direct Causes of Land Degradation

- (1) *Deforestation*
- (2) *Unsustainable logging*
- (3) *Intensive sloping land cultivation*
- (4) *Intensive flat land cultivation*
- (5) *Improperly managed commercial livestock farming*
- (6) *Reclamation of freshwater swamps*
- (7) *Reclamation of mangrove swamps*
- (8) *Ad Hoc urban development*

Indirect causes of land degradation

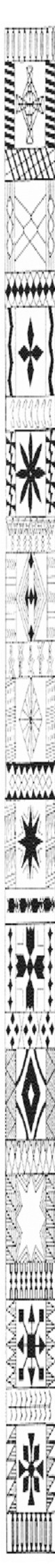
- (1) *Demographic changes*
- (2) *Pressure on the production base*
- (3) *Over dependence on the sugar industry*
- (4) *Non application of appropriate technologies*
- (5) *Lack of physical infrastructure*
- (6) *Weak institutional infrastructure*
- (7) *Lack of proper water resources policy*
- (8) *Inappropriate land use in watersheds*
- (9) *Inappropriate land use in the coastal margins*
- (10) *Ineffective information dissemination*
- (11) *Complex Land Tenure system*
- (12) *Poverty*
- (13) *Poor local control, responsibility and incentive because of central government control*



Relevant Policies & Plans

- (1) Drought Mitigation and Early Warning System Management*
- (2) Review of the Land Conservation and Improvement Act*
- (3) Environment Management Act of 2005*
- (4) National Rural Land Use Policy and Plan*
- (5) Fiji Forest Policy Statement*
- (6) Watershed Management Master Plan*

- (7) National Natural Disaster Management Plan*
- (8) Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment and Strategic Plan*
- (9) National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)*
- (10) Mangrove Management Plan*



Relevant Scientific & Technical Programmes

National Agricultural Programmes (14)


- (1) Soil Surveys and Soil Correlation Program*
- (2) Soil and Crop Evaluation Project*
- (3) Geographical Information Systems*
- (4) Participatory District / Tikina Based Land Use Plan*
- (5) Integrated Agriculture Development Program*
- (6) Agro-forestry Program*
- (7) Awareness and Training on Sustainable Land Management*
- (8) Transfer of Sustainable Land Management Technologies (SLMT)*

Regional Activities

- (1) Soil Loss Research and Development of Sustainable Land Management Technologies*
- (2) Pacific Regional Agriculture Program*
- (3) Climate Change and Variability Scenario Generation/Modeling*
- (4) Development of integrated farming approaches for sustainable crop production in environmentally-constrained systems in the Pacific region (CROPPRO Project)*
- (5) Development of Sustainable Agriculture Project.*



Identified Constraints, Capacity Needs & Recommendations

- There were 12 constraint identified
 - There were 23 identified capacity needs and recommendations made from the latest review of the Land Conservation and Improvement Act
 - The NAP identified 8 projects that would assist the Focal Point and relevant stakeholders to address issues of land degradation more effectively.
-
- Lack of knowledge and awareness on provisions of existing land resources legislations
 - Weak institutional linkages
 - Inappropriate land use development in the watershed
 - Poverty
 - Lack of credit facilities for land development
 - Inaccessibility to land resources information
- 



National Action Program Project Proposal

Project 1: Development of an institutional
capability for integrated land use planning

Project 2: National land use planning

Project 3: National land zoning

Project 4: National contemporary land use
mapping

Project 5: Integrated rural resource database
development and application

The End

Thank You

Convention on Biological Diversity

– what it is & what it means for Fiji

Dr. Patricia Kailola

29 July 08

United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)

Overall objectives

- conservation of biological diversity,
- sustainable use of fauna and flora, and
- fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.



Fiji signed the CBD in 1992

As a signatory nation, Fiji obliged to develop national strategies, plans or programmes

- a national biodiversity strategy & action plan (NBSAP) (1997-2007)
- a national capacity self-assessment program (NCSA) (2008) – i.e. finding out if Fiji has the capacity to fulfil its obligations under the convention
- The Dept of Environment is the national focal point for the CBD


The principle of the CBD says that States (countries) have the

- right to exploit their own resources in a manner agreeing with their own environmental policies, &
- responsibility to ensure that activities within their jurisdiction or control do not cause damage to the environment of other States or outside a country's border.



OBLIGATIONS

1. integrate conservation and sustainable use into national plans and programmes
 2. identify, monitor & protect nationally important components of biological diversity
 3. develop protected areas + guidelines for management
 4. promote the protection of ecosystems & natural habitats and maintain viable populations of species within them
 5. promote environmentally sound development in areas next to protected areas
 6. rehabilitate & restore degraded ecosystems
 7. promote recovery of threatened species by implementing management strategies

 8. manage risks of release of living modified organisms that may affect the natural system
 9. prevent the introduction of, control or eradicate, alien (exotic) species that threaten natural ecosystems, habitats or native species
 10. respect, preserve and maintain knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities, embodying traditional lifestyles relevant for the conservation and sustainable use of biological diversity
 11. develop or maintain necessary legislation and/or other regulatory provisions for the protection of threatened species and populations
 12. cooperate in providing financial and other support for on-site conservation
- 

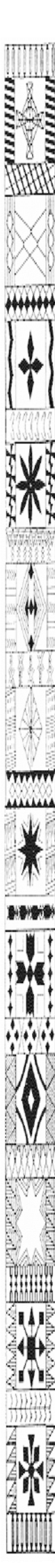


ADDITIONAL MATTERS include:

- Regulate & manage collections
- Adopt measures to recover and re-introduce threatened species
- Establish programs for scientific education & training in taxonomy, conservation
- Encourage research that contributes to conservation
- Promote & encourage public awareness (media, school curricula)
- Perform impact assessments of projects that may negatively affects on biological diversity
- Promote exchange of information
- Promote arrangements for emergency responses to negative activities or events

In Summary, the CBD is relevant in a variety of places and activities in Fiji

- Places: biodiversity in agriculture, forests, inland waters, islands, coastal and marine areas
- Activities: invasive (alien) species, impact assessments, protected areas, public awareness and education, sustainable use, maintenance of traditional knowledge & practices, legislation, finances, rehabilitation of degraded ecosystems, recovery of threatened species



Tomorrow's presentation will reveal how well
Fiji is performing its obligations – those it
agreed to when it signed the Convention
on Biological Diversity


[There's many a slip twixt cup and lip --- and a lesson on
only agreeing to things with open eyes]

Convention on Biological Diversity

– how Fiji is coping in meetings its
obligations

Dr. Patricia Kailola

30 July 08





Yesterday, we recognised that the CBD is relevant in a variety of places and activities in Fiji:

- Places: biodiversity in agriculture, forests, inland waters, islands, coastal and marine areas
- Activities: invasive (alien) species, impact assessments, protected areas, public awareness and education, sustainable use, maintain traditional knowledge & practices, legislation, finances, rehabilitate degraded ecosystems & threatened species

National activities under the CBD are done by:

- Government (mainly DoE, DoFor, DoFis, DoAg (Quarantine), FAB)
- Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) working directly in Fiji (21)
- Academic institutions (4 overall)
- Statutory bodies (National Trust, NLTB)
- Community-based organisations + private organisations (c. 25)
- Regional stakeholders (17)




With all of that conservation interest, you
would think that Fiji is looking good on its
CBD commitments

But in reality, there is a biodiversity crisis
exists in Fiji - and the biggest problem is
logging and forest degradation

A 2007 report summarised the crisis by saying that the crisis exists in
spite of:

- The presence of four government agencies with an interest in conservation,
- 23 non-government agencies,
- and at least a half-dozen community-based groups working on conservation outcomes,
- 148 individuals employed full time on the issues,
- the oversight of several [17] Pacific regional secretariats,
- the contracting of numerous experts,
- the writing of uncounted reports,
- the modelling of numerous trials,
- more than F\$13 million spent on the crisis annually,
- a human population that depends for its livelihood and economic development on biodiversity conservation,
- and a history of conservation effort that goes back to 1880.



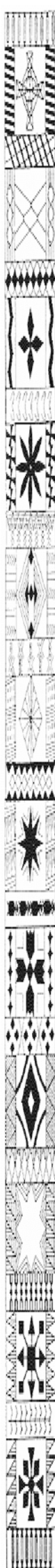
Yesterday we recognised that DoE is the focal point for the CBD, and we saw that its role is to support the carrying out of 12 main + many other obligations.

But in reality, the DoE (and other gov't departments) is stifled in its ability to perform its mandate because of resources and capacity.

The 'real' CBD-implementers in Fiji are the other stakeholders, led mainly by the NGOs.

How do the NGOs perform?

- Another 2007 report points out that whereas Fiji has 1 endemic fish (out of c.2000 fish species) and 40 endemic legged terrestrial animals (out of 90),
- Almost all the NGOs target marine conservation, only 3 working mainly on terrestrial conservation



The status of terrestrial conservation is
illustrated below:

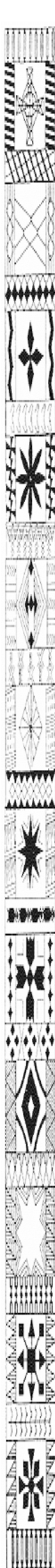
- Reptiles: 3/6 critically endangered, 2/6 endangered, 1/6 vulnerable
- Birds: 2/18 critically endangered, 1/18 endangered, 9/18 vulnerable
- Mammals: 1/5 critically endangered, 1/5 endangered, 2/5 vulnerable

And national parks/protected areas?:

- Sigatoka sand dunes (National Trust) was freehold land; and
- Sovi Basin is the best so far as a protected area but still has no legal reserve status

WHY do these problems exist? We have identified a suite of factors:

- no direction of effort; poor leadership
- legislation not implemented, or weak, inadequate, old, or overlapping (c. 70 laws (all sorts), about 12 of them relevant)
- no identified national strategy; lack of coordination
- inadequate government resources

- 
- Biological diversity not a 'high profile' in national outlook
 - vested interests; heavy bureaucracy
 - time & project management poor
 - Fiji concept of conservation
 - land & water ownership in Fiji
 - information not shared; little dialogue; competition

Conclusion

By identifying problems such as those above, the NCSA aims to present solutions to them, and ultimately develop a strategy for effective conservation in Fiji – but the strategy can only be effected with the support of the 50 or so stakeholders - - - can we achieve???

Annex 6: Social Page:



From Left to Right (Mr Jens Kruger of SOPAC, Ms Maria Elder of Landuse – Agriculture and Ms Taloga of CDU – Min of Education) enjoying lunch break.



Sereima Dovibua of the Mineral Resource Department helping herself to lunch during lunch break.



In the front from left to right is Mr Patimio Tabuatalei and Ms Maria Elder of the Landuse Division of Agriculture. In the background enjoying a light moment from the left to right is Mr Usaia Tukana of National Roads, Ms Akisi Bolabola of WWF and Ms Sereima Dovibua of Mineral Resource Dept.



From Left to Right (Ms Miriama Wasasala of Min of Youth, Mr Fine Lao of PACE-USP, Ms Makereta Sauturaga of Department of Energy and Ms Kelera Taloga of Min of Education)



Ms Shobha of Department of Water and Sewarage and Ms Dilitiana of Social Welfare Dept share a light moment during tea break

Annex 7: Fiji Times On Line Article on the Capacity Development Inception Workshop.

[Fiji Times Online](#)

Fiji Time (GMT +12)



The time in Fiji is 4:46 PM.

Site is updated as news comes to hand

Capacity lack an obstacle

Wednesday, July 30, 2008

THE lack of capacity in Fiji has been identified as a key obstacle to the effective implementation of the three Rio Conventions.

The comment by interim Environment Minister Lekh Ram Vayeshnoi was made at the Capacity Development Inception workshop.

The Rio Conventions are the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, UN Convention to Combat Desertification and the UN Convention on Biological Diversity .

These conventions derived directly from the 1992 Earth Summit represent ways of contributing to sustainable development around the world.

Mr. Vayeshnoi said capacity constraints have been increasingly recognized as one of the main obstacles to sustainable development in many countries.

Capacity at the workshop was described as the ability of individuals, institutions and societies to perform functions solve problems and set and achieve objectives in a sustainable manner.

"Therefore capacity development is the process through which individuals, organisations and societies obtain, strengthen and maintain the capabilities to set and achieve their own development objectives overtime," said Mr Vayeshnoi.

He said the Department of Environment under the National Capacity Self Assessment Project has been tasked with assessing Fiji's capacity to implement its obligations under the conventions.

The department is anticipating the participation of 23 key stakeholders and representatives from government ministries in a two-day workshop that comes to and end today.

The objectives of the workshop include the review of existing frameworks and guidelines for capacity assessment in Fiji, obligations under the three Rio conventions and Fiji's baseline stock take information