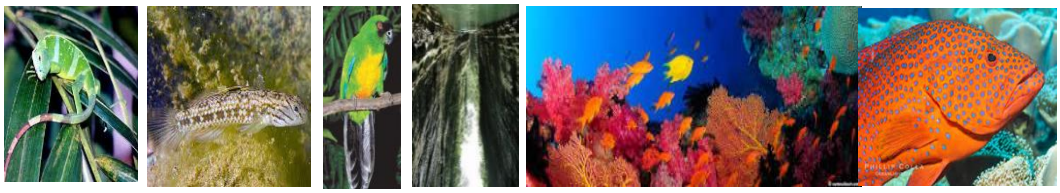
FIJI'S 6TH NATIONAL REPORT (DRAFT)

to

The Convention on Biological Diversity

2014 – 2020

Final draft



THE GOVERNMENT OF FIJI

September 2020

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT

The Sixth Fiji National Report is a national document produced as required under the Convention of Biological Biodiversity (CBD) Article 26 for parties to submit national reports to the Conference of the Parties on measures taken for implementation of the convention and their effectiveness in meeting the objectives of the Convention. This report was prepared by the Ministry of Environment as the focal point of the Fiji Government to the CBD.

A publication of the Government of Fiji.

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Acknowledgement

Fiji's 6th National Report was compiled in collaboration between Fijian Government Agencies, Non-Government Organisations, Scientists, Resource Owners, Community Groups, the Private Sector and Academic Institutions with financial support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

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Executive Summary

The 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) reports on Fiji's achievements and progress towards our national targets as set out in Fiji's current National Biodiversity Strategy Action Plan (NBSAP) 2020-2025 and Fiji's contribution towards the Global CBD Strategy 2011 – 2020 as required under Article 26 of the CBD. There are six national targets that Fiji has set to guide the national commitments and actions towards achieving both our national and the global targets. These are Improving Our Knowledge (IK), Protected Areas Management (PA), Species Management (SM), Management of Invasive Species (MIS), Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming (EEM) and Sustainable Use and Development (SUD).

The report attempts to present a national status report of our overall national progress towards meeting our national and global target and reflects our collaborations as a nation to achieve these targets. It also acknowledges the contribution from the broader community and individual commitments and achievements in biodiversity conservation and in maintaining a healthy Fijian environment.

Fiji has continuously worked towards achieving the national and global targets and is reflective in this assessment. Generally, Fiji has been rated as progressing well based on the measures of effectiveness provided and category of progress. Fiji has also reported on some of the challenges and improvements required to continue to make good progress.

Some of the key highlights shows strong application of our ecological/environmental and traditional knowledge and applied best practice(s) by different sectors of the Fijian community including those by school children and local community groups.

Fiji has completed a Marine Ecological Gap Assessment (in 2017) and has identified 124 Special Unique Marine Areas (SUMAs) within our Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and has identified offshore marine areas that could be protected and contribute towards achieving the 30% Marine Protected Areas target as set out in the NBSAP. Approximately 3% of our total terrestrial areas are under some form of management and Fiji has produced a map of proposed Terrestrial Protected Areas as well (as candidate sites) that will cover approximately 13% of our total forest areas once gazetted.

The engagement of local communities and their contribution in achieving our national targets cannot be underestimated in the Fijian context. The target of managing the 100% of our 410 customary fishing grounds has been rated as exceeding the target. The progress reported shows that 79% of the customary fishing grounds (inshore areas) have some form of management arrangements in place. This work is being undertaken with the support of the Yaubula Management Support Teams at provincial and local levels.

All endemic species and species that are believed to be critically endangered and /or endangered are protected at various levels through the legislative framework (including through the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002 and the Environment Management Act 2005 and subsequent regulations) and through the designated reserves and conservation work at various locations in Fiji. Species that are critically endangered and endangered are listed in IUCN's RedList. The Ministry of Environment collaborates formally (through an MOU) with the border control enforcement agencies (including the Fiji Income Revenue and Customs Authority) to ensure that species (both marine and terrestrial) are not smuggled in and out of Fiji.

Earlier this year, the Ministry of Environment launched two policies that guide the work of the Ministry in species protection and conservation work – these include the Conservation and Protection of Fiji's Endangered Iguana Species and the Conservation and Management of Fiji's Coral Reefs and Associated Ecosystems and is in the process of updating the species listings under the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002.

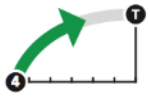
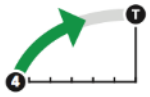
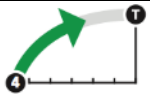
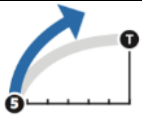
Assessment of alien and invasive species that are particularly harmful to island ecosystems have been completed, alien invasive species pathway analysis done, risk assessment pathways and Community-based incursion response plans developed. These include incursion response plans of mongoose on Taveuni, Kadavu and Gau and Giant Invasive Iguana incursion response plans for Taveuni. A database for invasive alien species occurrence within the different Fijian islands has been drafted.

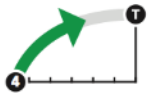
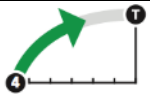
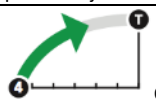
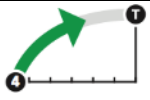
Fiji continues to strengthen its institutional frameworks and policies to ensure that all obligations made under the various environmental conventions are met. In 2018 Fiji as part of the Nagoya Protocol (NP) has started formulating the Access and Benefit Strategy (ABS) Policy Framework which is currently undergoing various national consultations. Legal and policy reviews were conducted to assess legislative gaps for the development and management of marine and terrestrial Protected Areas. The Environment Management Act 2005 continues to be enforced to ensure sustainable development and utilization of Fiji's natural resources. Various committees made up of experts have been meeting over the years to provide advice to the National Environment Council. These include the Protected Areas Committee, the Integrated Coastal Zone Management Committee, the Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce and the Wetlands Steering Committee.

Snapshot Summary of Fiji's NBSAP Target/Aichi Biodiversity Targets Progress Towards 2020

Below is a snapshot (summary) of Fiji's progress. The details are presented inSection III of the report.

Overall, Fiji's progress is "on track to achieve target as per symbol below) to meeting our national targets under the Fiji National Biodiversity and Strategic Action Plan (2020 – 2024). Notably, Fiji has "exceeded expectation" as per symbol below for Fiji's national target on Locally Managed Marine Areas.

FIJI'S NBSAP TARGETS	SUMMARY COMMENTS' AND RATING OF STATUS
Focus Area 1: Improving our Knowledge (IK) Areas of high biological importance have been identified by the Department of Environment and endorsed by National Environment Council (see Map Annex 2).	 **On Track to achieve target** Since 2015, there has been increased research and improvement of knowledge of Fiji's rich biodiversity through species ecological studies, citizen science, baseline assessments of biodiversity at terrestrial Key Biodiversity Sites and marine ecosystems, assessments of IUCN status of Fiji's endangered trees, PhD and MSc thesis and publications in peer-reviewed journals.
Focus Areas 2: Developing Protected Areas **Terrestrial PA Target:** Areas of high biological importance have been identified by the Department of Environment and endorsed by National Environment Council (see Map Annex 2).	 **On Track to achieve target** In 2015, under the GEF PAS 4 FPAM Project, a preliminary review of the existing policies, institutional structures and legislations relating to forest conservation and protection was conducted. Existing terrestrial Protected Areas covers 3% of Fiji's landmass while proposed terrestrial Protected Area systems account for 13% of Fiji's land area. The main categories for terrestrial Protected Areas in Fiji (aligned to the IUCN categories) include: Strict Nature Reserves (32%); Species and Habitat Management (11%); Multiple Use (53%) and traditional/cultural Values (Natural Monument/Features) (4%).
Marine Protected areas 30% Target: Areas of high biological importance have identified by the Department of Environment and endorsed by National Environment Council. At least 30% of Fiji's offshore areas are effectively managed and part of a national marine protected areas network.	 **On Track to achieve target** Fiji National Marine Ecosystem Service Valuation (MESV) report was completed in 2016. The MESV report valued Fiji's marine ecosystem services at FJD$2.5B out of which $228.2M is the combined value of the role coral reef and mangroves play in coastal protection, Fiji's contribution to the world in terms of carbon storage, and the value of subsistence fishing per year to coastal communities. In 2019, Fiji identified 15 candidate offshore 'no-take zones' or MPAs as well as inshore and produced archipelagic frequency maps showing priority sites which were developed based on placement guidelines and data provided by government, NGO stakeholders and open sources. The candidate sites' bioregions, special unique marine areas, important bird areas, ecologically and biologically significant areas, mangroves, reefs, and geomorphology features crosschecked with placement guideline targets identified the best possible areas with the least amount of conflicting uses. Fiji is currently planning on national consultations on the proposed offshore sites before it can be gazetted.
Locally Managed Marine Areas: By 2025, 100% of inshore traditional fishing grounds (iQoliqoli) are effectively managed within.	 **On track to exceed target** The Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA) Network is a locally grown initiative increasingly recognised as a voice collectively representing communities' interest in local stewardship. FLMMA is a network consisting of community, island and provincial sub-networks referred to as Yaubula

	Management Support Teams (YMST). There is an increase of close to 60% on LMMAs since the 5th National Report which reported 20% coverage and now it is 79% of total customary fishing ground being managed. An increase from 366 LMMA sites from 100 sites in 2013 to 466 sites in 2020. At this rate, Fiji can achieve this target in 2025. Fiji's targets to contribute to *scaling-up of locally managed marine areas to cover 100% of Fiji's customary marine areas in the) by 2030 ('The 100% Solution"). Through* FLMMA network Fiji has collectively supported 466 *tabu* areas in more than 135 qoliqoli areas, covering 79% of Fiji's inshore areas.
Focus Areas 3: Species Management By 2025, at least 10 known threatened plant and animal species have been protected and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.	 **On Track to achieve target** Fiji has identified several marine and terrestrial species and is working towards having them listed under the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002. Our work on the IUCN RedListed species is still in the research phase (species distribution confirmation, phenological studies, propagation methods etc). Fiji's Critically endangered and endemic crested iguana; and endangered and endemic Fiji sago palm and turtles are the only two important species for which management regimes have been carried out, from *ex-situ* captive breeding to *in-situ* habitat restoration, *in-situ* captive breeding and propagation methods. While the knowledge on how to improve the species' status has been documented, the threats to the species remain (habitat loss in its native range, and presence of introduced predators). Work is currently underway for Fiji's endangered bats, plants, birds, insects and fish, and their habitats. Ministry of Environment continues to enforce the various environmental laws to ensure species protection esp. through the Environment Impact Assessment Process. In this reporting period, Fiji launched its very first Bat sanctuary, and declared its second Ramsar site
Focus Area 4: Management of Invasive Species Fiji's invasive alien species (IAS), pathways, risks and threats to biodiversity and livelihoods are identified; priority IAS are controlled or eradicated, and by 2023 measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.	 **On Track to achieve target** The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, with the support of its stakeholders, chairs the Fiji Invasive Species Task Force and in addressing Fiji's invasive species and their eradication, control and monitoring. Fiji has successfully restored 14 islands through mammalian predator removal, enabling the recovery of Fiji's seabirds and the critically endangered and endemic crested iguana. Inter-island biosecurity protocols have been assessed, community-based mongoose incursion response plans, post-mammalian-eradication biosecurity plans have been developed for certain parts of Fiji.
Focus Area 5: Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming Agencies have put in place relevant legislations and policies, including Access and Benefit Sharing protocols that support NBSAP implementation; businesses and production sectors are adopting Fiji's Green Growth Framework; and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to develop and implement plans for sustainable production and consumption	 **On Track to achieve target** Fiji's core efforts under enabling environment which is the enforcement and capacity building of the development sectors and the community at large on environment-related law which includes Environment Management Act (EMA) 2005, Environment Management (EIA Process) regulations and Environment Management (Waste Disposal and Recycling) Regulations, the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002 and the Litter Act 2008. Fiji's also have developed overarching national strategies such as Green Growth Framework is Fiji's pathway to restoring balance in development, various climate change-related policies and sustainable forest and fisheries management related policies.
Focus Area 6: Sustainable Use and Development. The NBSAP strategies and action plans are fully incorporated into 5 & 20 Year's National Development Plan, the Green Growth Framework and other sectoral plans (e.g. Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Tourism, etc.).	 **On Track to achieve target** Fiji implemented and executed habitat restoration programmes for the forestry sector and establishment of mangrove and seagrass conservation areas and nurseries. A current initiative is the Ridge to Reef (R2R) funded through GEF. Rehabilitation and restoration programmes have been progressing since (and also before 2015), at district, provincial and national level.

	In 2015 Fiji completed a national marine ecosystem service valuation. It outlines the coastal and marine ecosystems ecological functions that directly and indirectly translate to economic service with value to Fijians. The 4FJ campaign has raised public awareness and government gazetted no harvest during the spawning season of groupers (subfamily *epinephelinae* of the family *serranidae*) known locally as *kawakawa* and *donu* and a grade 1 fish in the market and important source of protein for our communities. Fiji's agriculture, aquaculture and forestry sectors have sound environmental safeguards embedded into their policies and plans. Fiji is strengthening its monitoring and enforcement capabilities in this area. Fiji through the Ministry of Environment continues to enforce the Environment Management Act 2005 and the Environment Management (EIA Process) Regulations and Environment Management (Waste Disposal and Recycling) Regulations 2007 to ensure that environmental and social safeguards are put in place and development activities in the various sectors are sustainable.

Acronyms

ABS	Access and Benefit Sharing
BAF	Biosecurity Authority of Fiji
BIOFIN	Biodiversity Finance
CBAM	Community-Based Adaptive Management
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CHM	Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna
CMS	Convention on Migratory Species
DD	Data Deficient
EEM	Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming (Focal Area)
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EMA	Environment Management Act
EPS	Endangered and Protected Species Act
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization
FIST	Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce
FLMMA	Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area Network
FRCA	Fiji Revenue and Customs Authority
GCRMN	Global Coral Reef Monitoring Network
GEF	Global Environmental Facility
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GoF	Government of Fiji
CCA	Integrated community conserved areas
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management
ICMC	Integrated Coastal Management Committee
IK	Improving our Knowledge (Focal Area)
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LMMA	Locally Managed Marine Area
MEA	Multilateral Environmental Agreement
MMA	Marine Managed Area
MIS	Management of Invasive Species (Focal Area)
MOE	Ministry of Environment
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPA	Marine Protected Area
MPE	Ministry of Public Enterprise
MSAF	Marine Safety Authority of Fiji
NBSAP	Fiji National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
NEC	National Environment Council
NFMV	NatureFiji-MareqetiViti
NGO	Non-Government Organisation
NISSAP	National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan
NRI	National Resource Inventory
PA	Protected Areas (Focal Area)
PAC	Protected Area Committee
PIP	Pacific Invasives Partnership
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (+ Enhancing and Increasing Carbon Stocks)
SM	Species Management (Focal Area)
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPC	The Pacific Community
SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SUD	Sustainable Use and Development (Focal Area)
SWG	Species Working Group
TEEB	The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity
TFRO	Traditional Fisheries Rights Owners
TLTB	iTaukei Land Trust Board
TOR	Terms of Reference
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
	World Convention Concerning the Protection of the Cultural and Natural Heritage WHC
MoFor	Ministry of Forestry
MoFis	Ministry of Fisheries

Introduction

On 5 June, 1992, Fiji joined 190 countries in signing the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) at Rio de Janero committing to address the state of the world's biodiversity, committing itself to:

(i) developing and implementing national strategies to conserve and use the components of biological diversity sustainably,
(ii) integrating biodiversity policy into relevant sectoral or cross-sectoral plans, programmes and plans; and
(iii) Monitoring and periodically reporting on the status of biodiversity in the environment.

To realise these objectives, signatory countries were required to develop a National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP). The NBSAP is a policy document that outlines national strategies and actions that will contribute to the halt of biodiversity loss. Our first National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) was developed in 2003 and endorsed by Cabinet in 2007. The Fiji 6th National Report to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) (2014 – 2020) builds on from Fiji's 5th National Report (2010 to 2013).

The document will report on Fijis national targets outlined in the NBSAP 2020-2025. It will also report on the progress and progress towards the Global Biodiversity Strategy 2011 – 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs). The report follows the guidelines for national reporting according to Decision XIII of the Conference of the Parties that was held in Cancun, Mexico.

> Article 26: The objective of national reporting is to provide information on measures taken for the implementation of the Convention and the effectiveness of these measures
> Decision X/2: Monitor and review the implementation of NBSAPs in accordance with the Strategic Plan and national targets and report through 5NR and 6NR; Analyse/synthesize national, regional and other actions, including targets, to assess the contribution of such national and regional targets towards the global targets

This report covers the following areas:

1. Information on the targets being pursued at the national level;
2. Implementation measures taken, assessment of their effectiveness, and associated
3. Obstacles and scientific and technical needs to achieve national targets;
4. Assessment of progress towards each national target;
5. Description of the national contribution to the achievement of each global Aichi Biodiversity Target;
6. Updated biodiversity country profile.

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Approach Of Developing Fijis 6th National Report To CBD

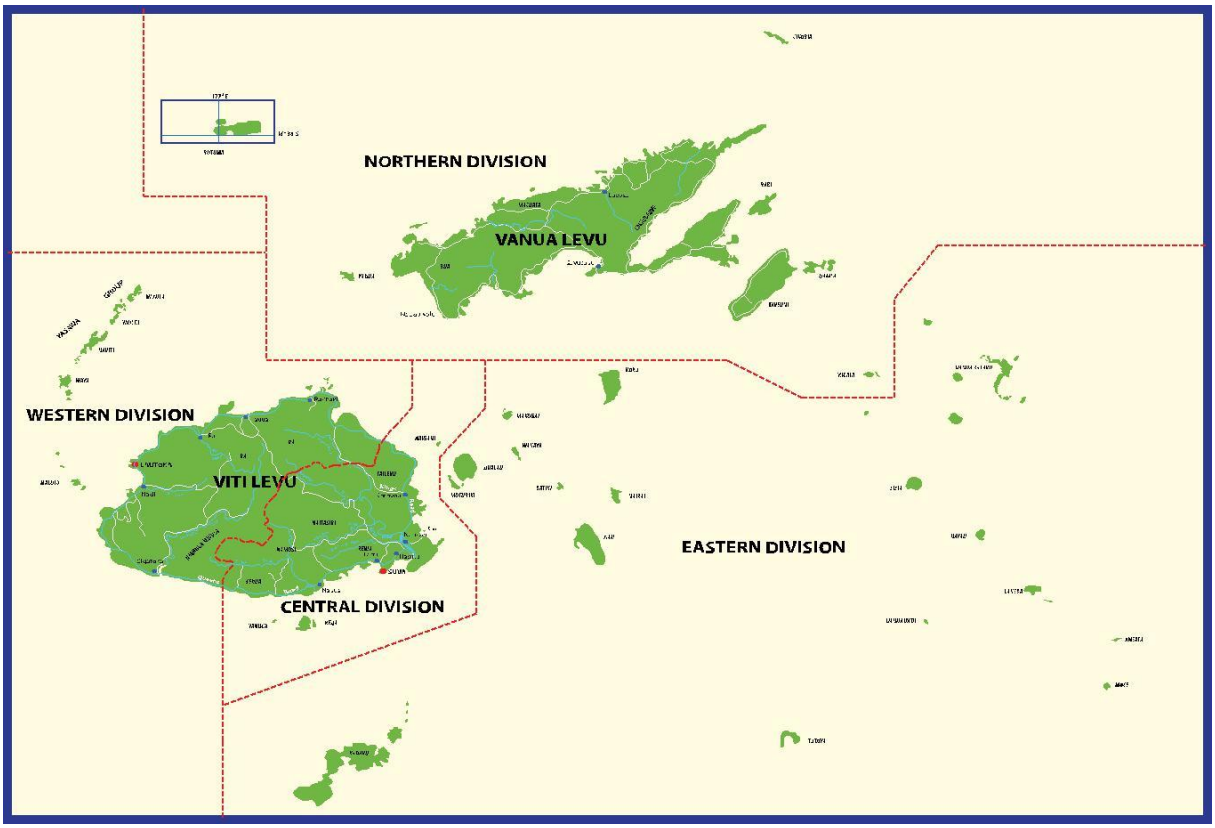

Figure 1: Map of Fiji

The approach undertaken followed the guideline provided by the CBD Secretariat which focuses on changes to biodiversity and actions taken since the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011- 2020 was adopted, with a particular emphasis on the changes that have occurred since Fiji's 5th National Report was submitted. It sets out to collect achievements, progress and assess the effectiveness of measures taken to achieve national and global targets. The approach and methodology followed were:

i. **Fiji Aichi Biodiversity Targets Information and Achievements:** This involved collection of relevant data, reports and analyses carried out at national and sub-national level to Fiji's NBSAP and our national Aichi Biodiversity Targets. It included a collection of information from other sectors and not only from the environment sector. Fiji conducted two rounds of national consultations in the three major divisions i.e. Central, Western and Northern Division.

ii. **Assessment and Analyses:** An evaluation and assessment of Fiji's national contribution towards the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) of the Global Strategy for the effectiveness of the measures taken as outlined in Fiji's NBSAP, the identification of lessons learned, and of technical, scientific and capacity needs, as well as needs for implementation support was carried out through stakeholder consultations. The second round of consultation was for validations and provided the opportunity for stakeholders to do their expert opinion assessments on progress.

iii. **CBD Reporting:** The development of the 6th national report to describe Fiji's contribution towards the achievement of Aichi Biodiversity Target (ABT) was carried out by IUCN and NatureFiji-MareqetiVitias consultants with leadership from the Director of Environment. Relevant stakeholders were also included in validation of data, inputs and contributions towards the final report.

Section I. Information and Targets being pursued at the national level

Information on targets bring pursued at national level

Fiji has adopted national biodiversity targets or equivalent commitments in line with the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011 – 2020 and the Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs). In 2014 Fiji reviewed the focus areas of the 2007 NBSAP and agreed to six priority focus areas to be addressed under the 2020–2025 NBSAP which are:

Focus 2: Developing Protected Areas (PA),
Focus 3: Species Management (SM),
Focus 4: Management of Invasive Species (IS),
Focus 5: Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming (EEM) and
Focus 6: Sustainable Use and Development (SUD).

Each of the focus areas supports the Global Strategic Plan 2011-2020 and related Strategic areas and ABTS (Table 1). As part of the review process Fiji has also developed a draft Implementation Framework (2017 – 2022) for the current NBSAP and will implement and coordinate NBSAP implementation through the thematic areas below:

Thematic Area 1: Forest Conservation Management,
Thematic Area 2: Invasive Alien Species Management (IS),
Thematic Area 3: Inshore Fisheries Management,
Thematic Area 4: Coastal Development Management,
Thematic Area 5: Protected Areas Management,
Thematic Area 6: Inland Waters Management and
Thematic Area 7: Species Management

Rationale for National Targets

The Goal of Fiji's NBSAP or Biodiversity *is to conserve and sustainably use Fiji's terrestrial, freshwater and marine biodiversity, and to maintain the ecological processes and systems which are the foundation of national and local development and immense global significance*. As outlined above Fiji has developed NBSAP Strategies with clear national targets. The aim is to achieve Fiji's overall conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. Additionally, Fiji has outlined the seven thematic areas which are major threats targeting coastal development, forest conversion, inshore fisheries and invasive species. Fiji has established nine principles to ensure proper safeguards are respected and adhered to during implementation.

Table 1: Fiji's national targets as set out in the Fiji NBSAP 2020 – 2025 with links to the Global Aichi Biodiversity Targets and Indicators

FOCAL AREA	NATIONAL TARGET	LINKS TO CBD STRATEGIC GOALS AND ABTS	INDICATORS
Focus Area 1: Improving our Knowledge (IK)	Fijians are aware of values of biodiversity and traditional knowledge and practice are integrated with the latest scientific knowledge into sustainable biodiversity conservation practices Rationale (refer to Section II) Level of application: √ National √Provincial/community level	**CBD Goal A, ABT 1, 2**	o Increased trends in public engagements with biodiversity. o Increased trends in awareness and attitudes to biodiversity. o Increased integration of traditional knowledge and practices in biodiversity conservation. o Increased research and knowledge on Fiji's rich biodiversity. o Increased biodiversity knowledge applied in different sectors such as education, health, agriculture, forestry and industries to make management decisions. o Increased willingness to use technology and systems.
Focus Area 2: Developing Protected Areas (PA)	Areas of high biological importance have been identified by the Department of Environment and endorsed by National Environment Council Rationale (refer to Section II) Level of application: √ National √Provincial/community level **Marine PA Target**: Areas of high biological importance have identified by the Department of Environment and endorsed by National Environment Council. At least 30% of Fiji's offshore areas are effectively managed and part of a national marine protected areas network and; (b) By 2025, 100% of inshore traditional fishing grounds (iQoliqoli) are effectively managed within locally managed areas. Rationale (refer to Section II) Level of application: √ National √Provincial/community level	**CBD Goal C ABT 6,7,11,13 and 14.**	o Total area of representative coverage of formally and informally recognized terrestrial and marine protected areas and locally managed areas. o Total area and number of protected areas that are effectively managed based on agreed national protected area criteria for evaluating management effectiveness. o Measurement of ecosystem services and equitable benefits from protected areas. o Measure if trends in connectivity of protected areas and other area-based approaches are integrated into landscapes and seascapes.

Focus Area 3: Species Management (SM)	By 2025, at least 10 known threatened plant and animal species have been protected and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained. Rationale (refer to Section II) Level of application: √ National √Provincial/community level	**CBD Goal C ABT 12, 13**	○ Reduced trend in extinction risks of Fiji's 10 priority plant and animal species ○ Increased trend in the population of the 10 priority threatened plant and animal species for Fiji ○ Increased trend in the distribution of the 10 selected plant and animal species
Focus Area 4: Management of Invasive Species (MIS)	Fiji's invasive alien species (IAS), pathways, risks and threats to biodiversity and livelihoods are identified; priority IAS are controlled or eradicated, and by 2023 measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment. Rationale (refer to Section II) Level of application: √ National √Provincial/community level	**CBD Goal C ABT 9**	○ Assessment and measurement of the impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity and food security. ○ Impact of policy responses, legislation and management plans to control and prevent the spread of invasive and alien species.
Focus Area 5: Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming (EEM)	Agencies have put in place relevant legislations and policies, including Access and Benefit Sharing protocols that support NBSAP implementation; businesses and production sectors are adopting Fiji's Green Growth Framework; and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to develop and implement plans for sustainable production and consumption. Rationale (refer to Section II) Level of application: √ National √Provincial/community level	**CBD Goal B ABT 4, 6, 7, 14 and 16.**	○ Increased initiatives by the different sectors to minimize their impact on Fiji's biodiversity. ○ Increased political awareness and support for biodiversity policies. ○ Increased communication programmes focused on biodiversity to promote actions and social corporate responsibility with the private sector. ○ Increased engagement and partnerships to raise awareness, evoke active responses, information sharing and cross-sector coordination and communication.
Focus Area 6: Sustainable Use and Development (SUD)	The NBSAP strategies and action plans are fully incorporated into 5 & 20 Year's National Development Plan, the Green Growth Framework and other sectoral plans (e.g. Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Tourism, etc.). Rationale (refer to Section II) Level of application: √ National √Provincial/community level	**CBD Goal C ABT 5, 6, 7, 8**	○ Decline and extinction of utilised species including traded species are eliminated or significantly reduced ○ Degree to which biodiversity and ecosystem service values are incorporated into organisational accounting reporting ○ Extinction risk trends of habitat-dependent species is halted or reversed ○ Population of habitat dependent species are maintained at healthy levels

Section II. Implementation measures to achieve National Targets.

This section presents the measures taken to implement Fiji's National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan 2020–2025. The 6th National Report for Fiji presents the achievements from 2014 to 2020 building on the Fiji 5th National Report reported from 2011 to 2013.

The measures and actions taken are reported under each focal area, strategy, and objective, and summarises the progress of the actions under each objective. References are listed after the progress and an assessment of the effectiveness of the measures, followed by an explanation of the basis of assessment and obstacles and technical needs related to measure taken.

Focal Area 1: Improving Our Knowledge (Ik)

NATIONAL TARGET:

Fijians are aware of values of biodiversity and traditional knowledge and practice are integrated with the latest scientific knowledge into sustainable biodiversity conservation practices

INDICATORS

- Increased trends in public engagements with biodiversity.
- Increased trends in awareness and attitudes to biodiversity.
- Increased integration of traditional knowledge and practices in biodiversity conservation.
- Increased research and knowledge on Fiji's rich biodiversity.
- Increased biodiversity knowledge applied in different sectors such as education, health, agriculture, forestry and industries to make management decisions.
- Increased willingness to use technology and systems.

RATIONALE

One of the key challenges in ensuring biodiversity loss is halved and/or minimised is for the general populace to understand the basic value of biodiversity. Additionally to have a cognitive understanding of the various services provided by biodiversity. This includes but is not limited to the functioning, regulating and provisioning values biodiversity provides to humanity. Recognising, the intrinsic link of biodiversity to human well-being underpins the conservation of biodiversity. As such, the importance of awareness of biodiversity values is critical. This is important to Fiji noting that some development decisions threaten biodiversity and contributes to biodiversity loss.

To address this threat Fijians must be aware of and understand the values of biodiversity. Whilst this national target is aiming at the public, it is most critical for decision-makers at all levels.

This national target whilst is addressing national issues is expected to contribute to **Strategic Goal A**: *Addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society*, which are:

ABT 1: Awareness of Biodiversity Increased: By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably and;

ABT 2: Biodiversity Values Integrated: By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.

Strategic Area IK.1 Strengthen public awareness of biodiversity, including understanding and application of traditional knowledge and practices in biodiversity conservation and protection.

Objective 1a:

To conduct national education and awareness activities on the important role of biodiversity to people's livelihoods and overall wellbeing

Actions

A.IK1.1 Develop an NBSAP Communication Strategy to guide the national awareness and education programmes on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.
A.IK1.2 Provide support, information and training to government, private sector, NGOs and civil society field officers to conduct and disseminate biodiversity awareness and information.
A.IK1.3 Engage private sector and civil society, such as churches, to promote biodiversity messages and best practices.
AIK1.4 Develop messages, training programmes and delivery modes to target specific sectors of the population, such as the iTaukei resource owners, farmers, school children and youth
IK1.5 Develop national awareness radio and television programmes on the value and role of biodiversity to reach wider Fiji society.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to Progress Fiji's NBSAP

The Ministry of Environment takes a lead on all biodiversity-related awareness in-country in partnership with line government Ministries, academic institutions and NGO partners. The Ministry disseminates environmental and biodiversity information to the general public, government counterpart, NGOs and civil societies. NBSAP communications is a cross-cutting theme. A Communication and Awareness Committee was established to coordinate communication and awareness activities on environmental and biodiversity issues. The Ministry commemorates and uses the International designated days such as the Wetlands Day, Oceans Day, Environment Day, Biodiversity Day, and Wildlife Day each year to advance its biodiversity conservation agenda. The Minister for Environment has been heavily involved and leads the Ministry's work in this area.

NBSAP related communications are also integrated into other Ministries work such as the Ministry of Fisheries inshore fisheries roadshows and awareness and the Ministry of Agriculture through their annual Agricultural roadshows. The maritime academy has launched a module on by-catch. Other awareness includes World Fish Day celebrations, provincial roadshows (Bua 2017), annual Ra Yabula Day, Cakaudrove Day, Macuata Day and exhibition events for 4FJ campaign.

Fiji also works very closely with academic institutions such as the University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University and others to develop an educational program incorporating NBSAP focal areas and themes. For instance, USP has developed an Integrated Coastal Management Course under their Marine Management Program.

The Fiji National University (FNU) and Community-Centred Conservation (C3) have engaged children in schools through their Climate Change Clubs and Reef Ranger programs respectively. FNU is conducting applied research on bioremediation (pollution control) program.

One of the local NGOs, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti's program called 'Learn from a scientists' is actively targeting children and general public focusing on themes such as - Mangrove madness, Migratory Shorebirds, Creatures of the mudflats, Architects of Fiji's rivers and streams, Frog night, Moth night, Lost Species Remembrance Day, Birds in Fiji's Forests. The organisation has also run Eco camps for children of communities that live around some of Fiji's Important Bird Areas to raise local support for the maintenance of these special habitats for species.

The Ministry of Fisheries Research & Extension Officers have developed and distributed awareness materials to other agencies during consultations at various levels on inshore fisheries and MPAs.

The Fiji Ministry of Environment has raised stakeholder awareness on Fiji's CITES-listed species, and provides regular trainings to the enforcement and border control agencies to address any illegal trade of species.

National Trust of Fiji has partnered the US Geological Services and have raised awareness and provided training on Fiji's endangered Iguana species. The Heritage in Young Hands program by the National Trust of Fiji targets children in communities living around their heritage sites. The program aims to build local capacity and ownership of the issues around the heritage sites owned and managed by the National Trust of Fiji.

Faith organisations in Fiji such as the Christian churches and Fiji Sikh Community (Eco-Sikh program) have incorporated biodiversity protection into their programs.

Various Private Sector groups in Fiji through their CSR programs have been partnering with NGOs and Government agencies in protecting Fiji's biodiversity. For example, the ANZ Bank Staff Foundation in Fiji chose to champion the restoration of Fiji Sago Palm habitats and populations, a group of business communities got together to clean up Nasese foreshore area and plant mangroves. Surf Co. Fiji partnered with the Ministry of Environment to clean up the Sonaisali Beach, the Maui Resort partnered with the Ministry of Environment and local communities in Seagrass Conservation project and recently the Refrigerant and Air Conditioning Industry partnered with the Ministry of Environment to clean up the Wailoa Beach and plant trees in Sabeto.

Communication and Advocacy strategies have been developed for several of Fiji's endangered species through the production of children-friendly colouring books, life-sized models of species, newspaper articles, television talkback shows, radio talkback shows and social media.

References:

http://mlearn.usp.ac.fj/coursefinder/course.php?code=MS302https://elearn.usp.ac.fj/course/info.php?id=1463http://www.education.gov.fj/textbooks/

Catholic Church - http://www.aosfiji.org/www.fnu.ac.fj/applied sciences-research reportshttps://www.wwfpacific.org/?uNewsID=334431https://www.researchgate.net/publication/298380685_Captive_breeding_and_re-introduction_of_the_Monuriki_Island_Crested_Iguana_in_Fiji (Chand, Ramesh & Niukula, Jone & Vadada, Joeli & Fisher, Robert & Lovich, Kim & Pasachnik, Stesha & Rasalato, Sialisi & Thaman, Baravi & Seniloli, Elenoa & Tuamoto, Tuverea & Harlow, Peter. (2016)).
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Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Based on historical information, engagement, observation and expert opinion, national awareness on the important role of biodiversity to people's livelihoods and wellbeing has increased from 2010. These national awareness programs are effective as noticed from the changes in public perception to biodiversity conservation and environmental protection. The various education and awareness programmes implemented and executed in Fiji by various stakeholders have seen a surge in interest of the public on environment and biodiversity activities and issues. These programmes have resulted in rural communities being more engaged and empowered to manage natural resources within their provincial boundaries and make informed decisions on the type of development for their communities. There is a noticeable increase in the awareness level of Fiji's societies as noted by the increase in specific request on the type of awareness and training required for biodiversity conservation and environmental protection.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure taken.
More outreach would assist in progressing this target.

Objective 1b.
Integrate traditional ecological knowledge, innovations and good practices of Fijian communities into conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity.

Actions:

IK1.6 Improve the collection and documentation of traditional knowledge, cultural values and best practices relating to biodiversity and make readily available to support biodiversity conservation such as village level biodiversity and heritage registers.
A.IK1.7 Support tangible and non-tangible mapping of cultural knowledge and practices as defined by UNESCO.
A.IK1.8 Integrate traditional knowledge and practices in the school curriculum to promote traditional values and practices for the protection and wise use of natural resources.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP
Fiji recognises the value of traditional and ecological knowledge, innovations and good practices of Fijian communities to conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. To support this, Fiji has initiated programmes to document traditional ecological knowledge in collaboration with CSO partners. Some of the activities under this initiative includes;

- Determining the spatial and temporal distribution of reef fish spawning aggregations on the Great Sea Reef using a multi-disciplinary approach;
- Documenting traditional ecological knowledge on reef fish spawning aggregations to provide local communities with the skills required to successfully protect spawning aggregations and thereby manage their fishery resources in a more sustainable manner;
- Promote awareness of the importance of the protection of spawning aggregation sites for the long-term sustainability of local fisheries using the Humphead Wrasse as flagship species;
- Train local communities in basic survey techniques to gather data for fisheries management and develop monitoring and management plans;
- Discovering Fiji: Rediscovering a lost treasure along the Wainikoroiluva - Fiji Sago Palm.

The Itaukei Affairs Board (a government agency), has conducted cultural mapping of 13 (out of 14) provinces in Fiji (Namosi, Serua, Rewa, Tailevu, Lomaiviti, Ra, Bua, Naitasiri, Macuata, Cakaudrove, Kadavu, Lau, Nadorga/Navosa. Only the Province of Ba is left to be mapped). The programme explores a model legislative framework that specifically looks at the protection of indigenous knowledge and expression of culture. The exercise involves collection, recording and documentation of indigenous

tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

The Ministry of Education has a three-year program on documentation of totem fish, plants, birds etc. for primary schools students in their 3rd year of school, as part of the school curriculum. Additionally, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti published a picture storybook in the indigenous language on traditional agricultural methods, to address the issue of indiscriminate rural fires and how it affects Fiji's terrestrial species and their habitats and Fiji's Important Bird Areas. As part of this initiative a Fire and ladder game was created and custom-designed playing cards pack featuring some of Fiji's special birds on the mainland of Viti Levu. A storybook published in the vernacular of the Naitasiri dialect was distributed with the fire and ladder game and custom playing cards to Nasoqo & Navai communities, through the launching of communication materials at the Nabubuco Day.

The Ministry of Environment is jointly working with the Ministry of Itaukei Affairs to hold the Natural Resources Council Meetings.

References:

https://www.fijitimes.com/discovering-fiji-rediscovering-a-lost-treasure-along-the-wainikoroiluva/
https://www.speciesconservation.org/case-studies-projects/humphead-wrasse/1794
http://c3experiences.wordpress.com/
http://www.itaukeiaffairs.gov.fj/index.php/divisions/tilc/cultural-mapping-programme
https://naturefiji.org/project/fire-control-in-and-around-the-greater-tomaniivi-iba-kba/

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

□ Measures taken has been effective

√ ***Measures taken been partially effective***

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Assessments have been based on expert opinion as there is a lack of methodology on how to assess the measures taken to achieve the objective, national target and overall contribution to Aichi targets. Whilst there are site-based activities to ensure integration of traditional ecological knowledge and ongoing initiatives at the national level, more work is required to fully understand and compile the traditional ecological knowledge for biodiversity conservation.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Cultural mapping and documentation is a challenge noting that there are 14 provinces to cover. A proper methodology and interview procedure needs to be developed to ensure critical biodiversity information is captured. More resources would assist in progressing this work in a timely manner.

Objective IK1c:

Improve science-based knowledge on ecosystem services and biodiversity values.

A.IK1.9 Support learning and best practice network to improve science and practice.

A.IK1.10 Include biodiversity conservation science and management in all primary and secondary school curriculum.

A.IK1.11 Develop systematic storage systems for research data and information and enable their accessibility to all stakeholders in Fiji

A.IK1.12 Encourage taxonomic and applied research to document Fiji's biodiversity, understand threats, and to find practical management solutions.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's Targeted conservation and management efforts have been conducted for some species that are endemic to Fiji, of cultural/ subsistence/economic value, and/or are nationally endangered or threatened.
Local communities are engaged in planting programs, particularly of plants that support livelihoods. For example, local communities have planted mangroves to protect livelihood and village farmlands with WWF.
A Value Chain Analysis study conducted on sea cucumber led to the recommendation to ban sea cucumber harvesting and trading. This ban was gazetted by Fiji in 2018. More studies currently being conducted on Sea cucumber farming. This work was a joint initiative of Fiji National University and Wildlife Conservation Society. The Report was published in (2015).

Fiji has integrated sustainable use of biodiversity into its educational program and in current primary school and secondary school curriculum. A research paper was published by Vilive Cagivinaka, 2016 on "Reorienting Education and Indigenous Fijian ecological knowledge: An analysis of indigenous Fijian students' traditional ecological knowledge of environmental sustainable practices" –. The study aimed to find out the extent to which the curriculum of four Fiji secondary school subjects accounted for Fijian Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK). The study recommends for traditional knowledge to be woven into the existing curriculum and delivered in formal academic settings.

Fiji aims to develop a national systematic storage system for research with a possible partnership between government and academic institutions. There are capacity building programs for young researchers producing qualified graduates in a range of disciplines fit to be employed in a range of sectors in Fiji. In the Labasa FNU campus alone approximately 100 - 200 students graduate annually, equipped to practice in the conservation space.

Below are some key achievement by the Fiji National University in the Northern Division

- Aquaculture studies
- Pearl Oyster farming, women doing monitoring (2 farms in northern division)
- Mariculture/ polyculture techniques
- Crop breeding research (approx. 5 researches graduate)
- Improving farming sector
- Biodiversity and conservation (Preservation of biodiversity)
- Agriculture/ Fisheries & forestry
- Climate change
- Crop research - improving the farming sector so that there is a diverse range of products - crops that can inhabit climate change conditions - wetlands, dry areas, etc.

References:

https://naturefiji.org/yanita-pterocymbium-oceanicum/
http://www.education.gov.fj/textbooks/
Fiji times article on Kulawai
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1clMbW3WJdsmTxyrWLSOxceHGvsHMYMd4/view?usp=sharing
www.aciar.gov.au/publications-regional research
www.fnu.ac.fj/research

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√ ***Measures taken has been effective***

□ Measures taken been partially effective
□ Measures taken been ineffective
□ Unknown□

This assessment is based on academic research recommendations, noting the need to incorporate traditional best practices into improving science-based knowledge on ecosystems services and biodiversity values.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.
Equipment and labs for more science research to be carried out to progress this target.

Focus Area 2: Developing Protected Areas

NATIONAL TARGET

Terrestrial Protected Area Target:

Areas of high biological importance have been identified by Ministry of Environment and endorsed by NEC (see Map Annex 1)

Marine PA Target:

(a) Areas of high biological importance have identified by Ministry of Environment and endorsed by NEC. At least 30% of Fiji's offshore areas are effectively managed and part of a national marine protected areas network and;

(b) By 2025, 100% of inshore traditional fishing grounds (*iQoliqoli*) are effectively managed within locally managed areas.

To achieve Fiji's Protected Areas national target above within the two systems of the terrestrial environment and marine environment below are the six (6) strategic areas:

Strategic Area PA1: Expanded national representative network of protected areas, accounting for community engagement, sustainably managed under good governance systems;

Strategic Area PA2: Expand Fiji's protected area network at the national, provincial, district and community level to achieve national targets;

Strategic Area PA3: Develop sustainable financing mechanisms for new and existing protected areas;

Strategic Area PA4: Share best practices and lessons learned to improve management effectiveness and governance;

Strategic Area PA5: Develop legislation and policy to establish and manage a protected area network for Fiji; and

Strategic Area PA6: Improve institutional, governance and administrative frameworks for protected areas.

INDICATORS

- Total area of representative coverage of formally and informally recognised terrestrial and marine protected areas, and locally managed areas.
- Total area and number of protected areas that are effectively managed based on agreed national protected area criteria for evaluating management effectiveness.
- Measurement of ecosystem services and equitable benefits from protected areas.
- Measure if trends in connectivity of protected areas and other area-based approaches are integrated into landscapes and seascapes.

Rationale

Fiji's Environment Management Act (2005) established the National Environment Council (NEC) which appointed a Protected Areas Committee (PAC) to provide technical advice to the NEC. The PAC consists of technical experts from government and non-government organisations and are guided by the Fiji NBSAP to achieve Fiji's national targets.

The second focal area of Fiji's NBSAP, **Developing Protected Areas** seeks to contribute to Aichi Biodiversity Target 11 whereby by 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

Strategic Area PA1: Expanded national representative network of protected areas, accounting for community engagement, sustainably managed under good governance systems.

Objective PA1a: To carry out marine, terrestrial and wetlands gap analyses to guide the development of a national representative network of protected areas.

Actions

PA1.1 Complete a gap analysis and prioritisation for marine, terrestrial and wetland ecosystems to identify key biodiversity areas for biodiversity protection to meet Fiji's national targets and international commitments.

PA1.2 Analyse, map and document the occurrence and status of all existing terrestrial, wetlands, and marine protected areas, including their governance structures

PA1.3 Prioritise key biodiversity areas for focal Species groups, habitats and important ecological processes.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP Marine Gap Analysis and Prioritisation:

In 2016 Fiji through Ministries of Environment and Fisheries, and under the PAC, IUCN and WCS funded a national workshop of experts to identify and document Special Unique Marine Areas (SUMAs) in Fiji (see map in Annex 3). Fiji completed a Marine Ecological Gap Assessment in 2017. The total number of SUMAs identified is 124, and 104 of these are found within Fiji's archipelagic or inshore waters and 20 SUMAs in offshore waters.

The total coverage of SUMAs in Fiji waters is 155,850.5 sq. km of which 17,963.5 sq. km are within inshore areas, to ensure the protection of Fiji's unique biodiversity and 137,887 sq. km in offshore areas within our EEZ. A map and description of marine bioregions for Fiji's entire EEZ has been developed to be used for marine spatial planning and the identification of marine protected networks. Spatial

planning tools have been used to identify a network of potential candidate marine protected area sites for public consultation, to ensure the protection of Fiji's unique biodiversity.

It is important to note that the majority of community protected areas have not been legally recognised, but are managed under local stewardship arrangements.

Terrestrial Protected Areas Prioritisation:

The Fiji Terrestrial Working Group (under PAC) reviewed the list of PAs in Fiji under the World Database of Protected Areas (WDPA) and noted that a total of 69 entries (out of a total of 87) in the WDPA were assessed contribute to 294,477 ha, which is equivalent to 16% of Fiji's landmass. Thorough assessment also indicates perfect synergy between the listed sites in the WDPA and the proposed terrestrial protected area list that was produced under prioritisation exercise for biodiversity areas.

Existing terrestrial protected areas cover 3% of Fiji's landmass while proposed terrestrial protected area systems will cover for 13% of Fiji's land area. Hence Fiji may contribute 16% of its landmass to fulfil CBD Aichi Target 11. Fiji has developed its **Proposed Terrestrial Protected Areas Map** (Annex 2) of candidate sites which has all the species and habitat justifications. The national PAC and the NEC have adopted this. This complements the Action Plan for Implementing the CBD's Programme of Work on Protected Areas which Fiji completed in 2011.

References:

1. Marine Gap-Analysis http://macbio-pacific.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Marine-Gap-Analysis-Interim-Report.pdf
2. Special Unique Marine Areas http://macbiopacific.info/Resources/biophysically-special-unique-marine-areas-of-fiji/
3. Developing A Marine Spatial Planning – A toolkit Developing A Marine Spatial Plan-A Toolkit for the Pacific and Biophysical Design Principals for Offshore No-Take MPAs
4. Action Plan for Implementing the Convention on Biological Diversity's Programme of Work on Protected Areas which Fiji completed in (2011). https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/fj/fj-nbsap-powpa-en.pdf

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective.

√ **Measures taken has been effective**

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Fiji's gap analysis on marine and terrestrial have gone through a thorough process following internationally recognised approaches and available science.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take

Some challenges on gap analysis include the locally managed marine and terrestrial areas which have a bottom-up approach and are driven by livelihood objectives (one may or may not include full account of biodiversity-related benefits). These locally managed areas lend themselves more to "other effective areas-based conservation measures" rather than marine protected areas. Fiji through the PAC have addressed this through ensuring best practices are developed through national networks such as Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas Network.

Reference:

LMMA Guide on Best Practice.

Objective PA1b: To develop an implementation plan to meet Fiji's 30% commitment to establish a representative network of marine protected areas within Fiji's inshore, archipelagic and offshore waters, to protect marine biodiversity support communities and livelihoods and the national economy.

Actions

PA1.4 Identify sites that can achieve multiple objectives and outcomes such as biodiversity, fisheries culture and heritage, sustainable tourism, to ensure they provide benefits to local people.

PA1.5 Develop 30% marine protected area objectives and conduct mapping of priority biodiversity areas.

PA1.6 Finalise the mapping of Fiji's marine bioregions, the typology for marine protected areas, and design principles and processes.

PA1.7 Adopt a national marine protected area system
To meet Fiji's 30% commitment through government gazette, provincial endorsements and supported by national sector strategies and plans.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

Fiji committed to a national network of 30% marine protected areas announced first at the Small Island Developing States (SIDS) Meeting in Mauritius in 2005 and recommitted at the SIDS meeting in Samoa in 2014 and the Ocean Conference in 2017. This commitment was reaffirmed in Fiji's Green Growth Framework (2014), National Development Plan (2017), the NBSAP 2020- 2025, and the draft National Ocean Policy.

In 2014, NEC approved an information paper to cabinet on a comprehensive ten-step plan to deliver the 30% MPAs by 2020. In summary, Fiji has thus far completed: the visioning and objective process; a national marine ecosystem service evaluation; an analysis of the legal basis for a network of MPAs; defined MPA zone typologies; described its biophysically special; unique marine areas (SUMA); completed an ocean-wide description of marine environment (Bioregions); developed guidelines on placement guidelines for MPAs and zones; and drafted a policy brief on options for Protected Area Sustainable Financing. The criteria to identify Fiji's marine hot spots or SUMAs included endemic fish species, important bird areas, globally threatened species, restricted-range species, biome restricted species. This also included habitat connectivity areas which included criteria such as habitat intactness, complexity, hydrology (for terrestrial sites) and sensitivity to erosion.

Fiji uses MSP planning to identify MPAs and eventual establishment of an ecologically representative network of marine protected areas with least amount of conflict with users (e.g. maritime industries like commercial fishing, transport, mining) within our EEZ to meet our 30% CBD target.

A national consultation plan is in place which has been adopted by Ministries of Environment and Fisheries to be rolled out in 2020.

References:

1. Marine Gap-Analysis http://macbio-pacific.info/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/Marine-Gap-Analysis-Interim-Report.pdf
2. Special Unique Marine Areas http://macbiopacific.info/Resources/biophysically-special-unique-marine-areas-of-fiji/
3. Developing A Marine Spatial Planning – A toolkit Developing A Marine Spatial Plan-A Toolkit for the Pacific and Biophysical Design Principals for Offshore No-Take MPAs

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√**Measures taken have been effective**

☐ Measures taken been partially effective

☐ Measures taken been ineffective

☐ Unknown

As outlined above Fiji is progressing well in achieving the planning towards meeting our 30% target.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.
Continued data/information would be requirement to progress this target.

Strategic Area PA2: Expand Fiji's protected area network at the national, provincial, district and community level to achieve national targets.
Objective PA2a: Develop a national monitoring and evaluation framework for Fiji's protected areas to assess the management effectiveness of protected areas and promote adaptive management.
Actions:

PA2.1 Create a national register of protected area sites, with priorities identified for immediate attention.
PA2.2 Develop a national monitoring and evaluation framework for Fiji's protected areas.
PA2.3 Develop and establish a national protected areas management effectiveness tool and mechanism.
PA2.4 Ensure monitoring and evaluation is fed into adaptive management.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP
Different groups maintain Fiji's register of protected areas, such as the Protected Areas Committee, Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas Network, Marine and Terrestrial Working Group and Birdlife International and NatureFiji-MareqetiViti. In addition to data on Fiji's Key Biodiversity Areas (KBAs) and Important Bird Areas (IBAs) (see map in Annex 2), the Ministry of Forestry holds data of their forest and nature reserves. Through the BIOPAMA Initiative in the region, Fiji is supported to improve data sets for protected areas listed in the WDPA and at national level.

The assessment of effectiveness for Fiji's protected areas is an area that Fiji's Ministry of Environment and PAC will further explore to measure protected area effectiveness. The South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and IUCN through BIOPAMA Initiative are supporting countries to use tools such as Integrated Management Effective Tool (IMET) and Green List to increase the number of fair and effective protected areas and conserved areas.

In the meantime, the Protected Areas Committee has engaged the University of the South Pacific to lead baseline biodiversity assessments in Fiji's protected areas, in collaboration with local and international taxonomic experts. In 2012, Birdlife International developed "A Guide to Monitoring Important Bird Areas in Fiji", which continues to be implemented by its national partner, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti. Some monitoring and evaluation studies have been published.

A peer-reviewed paper has been published on "A survey of Endemic, Native, and Invasive Vertebrates in the Sovi Basin from 2003–2015". The Sovi Basin if Fiji's largest legally protected terrestrial protected area. In the Sovi Basin, a total of ten landowners, three National Trust of Fiji staff, three Forestry Department staff and three USP postgraduate students received training in carrying out biodiversity assessments including specimen collection techniques, data collection and habitat descriptions. These field guides were trained to undertake future biodiversity monitoring of key indicator species.

USP has established long-term monitoring plots in lowland and upland tropical forests. Studies have been conducted to assess the threat of invasive alien species, their impact and options for their control, management and eradication.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

□ Measures taken has been effective

√**Measures taken been partially effective**

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Fiji will need to put in place a guideline or approach/tools to measure PA management effectiveness.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Tools such as IMET https://pipap.sprep.org/node/51975 might be helpful in acheiving this target.

Objective PA2b: To develop context-specific co-management plans, recognising both formal and informal protected area sites at the national level.

Actions:

PA2.5 For each priority protected area, establish opportunities for mutually beneficial co-management arrangements, which take into account and build upon the existing good governance practice.

PA2.6 Ensure that for each protected area there are extensive participatory discussions with local communities and key stakeholders to discuss opportunities for co-management.

PA2.7 Build capacity at all levels, with a strong focus on supporting provincial and district level committees to implement protected areas.

PA2.8 Diversification of indigenous integrated community conserved areas (ICCA) through acknowledgement in national legislation or effective means of formal inclusion in the national systems.

Protected areas work builds strongly on the community-based management approach since terrestrial and coastal areas and marine resource are owned and managed by local and landowner groups (over 90% of land is under indigenous tenureship). There is great progress and increase in the number of areas that are under government gazetted PAs and community or locally managed areas. Below are examples of management plans have been developed:

- Sovi Basin Conservation Area Management plan;
- Kilaka Forest Conservation Area Management Plan;
- Vatu-i-Ra Conservation Park Management Plan;
- Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas have put in place management plans in about 300 or 79% of the 410 customary fishing which is a significant achievement in Fiji;
- Natewa/ Tunuloa Community Conserved Area Management Plan;
- Purchase and establishment of Fiji's first bat sanctuary - the Nakanacagi Bat Sanctuary, owned by the National Trust of Fiji – after extensive research and consultations

Ramsar Sites:

- The Upper Navua Conservation Ramsar Site Area Management Plan was completed in 2020 by the Ministry of Environment in consultation with partners.
- Launch of Great Sea Reef - Fiji's 2nd Ramsar site - in 2018. The management plan currently being developed (2020) by the Ministry of Environment and WWF.
- Nasoata proposed Ramsar Site – a draft co-management plan is under discussion.

References:

1. https://fiji.wcs.org/Portals/82/management_tools/smallKilaka%20Management%20Plan%20booklet%2023%205%2017%20amended8.pdf?ver=2017-07-05-171037-910
2. https://fiji.wcs.org/Resources/Management-Plans.aspx
3. Rainforest Trust website link - https://www.rainforesttrust.org/land-purchase-creates-fijis-first-bat-sanctuary/#:~:text=Rainforest%20Trust%20celebrates%20the%20purchase%20of%20over%2020,Free-tailed%20Bat%2C%20creating%20the%20nation%E2%80%99s%20first%20bat%20sanctuary.
4. NFMV link - https://naturefiji.org/dedicating-fijis-first-bat-sanctuary/

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√ ***Measures taken have been effective***

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

This assessment is based on some interviews carried out during the 6th National Report consultations.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Community-level capacity building, information and awareness-raising needs to be increased to strengthen the community's capacity to manage protected areas.

Objective PA2c: To maintain the integrity of protected area networks by ensuring they are recognised and supported by other sectors, the national sustainable development agenda, and other government policies and frameworks.

Actions:

PA2.9 The Department of Environment to coordinate with relevant natural resource management sectors such as agriculture, forestry, fisheries, mining and tourism sector to support protected area management and systems.

PA2.10 Incorporate protected area planning (both marine and terrestrial) within broader national planning exercises including integrated coastal management through depositing maps of terrestrial and marine protected areas network at the Department of Environment and other Government Department for reference during decision-making process.

PA2.11 Support the implementation of the Environment Management Act 2005 as a platform for the integration of Aichi Targets of the Convention on Biological Diversity into Department programmes and activities.

PA2.12 Assess the value and contribution of protected areas to national and local economies and to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

PA2.13 Establish and effectively manage protected-area systems to ensure the continued delivery of ecosystem services that increase resilience to climate change.

PA2.14 Sustain and restore the water-related services that both aquatic (wetland) and terrestrial ecosystems provide. E.g, wetland restoration is already being implemented as a means to improve water security.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

Through the NEC the Ministry of Environment works with the PAC to present technical reports and policy papers which guides engagements of relevant sectors on the support roles or integration towards protected areas. The Ministry of Environment works closely with the Ministry of Forestry, the Ministry of Fisheries and the tourism sector to maintain the integrity of Fiji's protected area network.

The current proposed Terrestrial Protected Areas has been incorporated into national GIS systems such as Vanua GIS.

The Ministry of Forestry has launched their online licensing system for government referencing and decision-making. The new web link will provide the ministry with key geographic information to assist in planning and decision-making. The Ministry's Forest Resource Assessment and Conservation (FRAC) Division is currently undertaking a mapping project where 2Dimensional and 3Dimensional dynamic web maps containing relevant information are created and presented in web applications for easy analysis and understanding by their staff. The FRAC Division, is the data hub of the Ministry, and updates the web maps daily thus providing almost real-time information to the Ministry's management and staff for planning and decision-making purposes.

The FRAC Division has set up an online dashboard which highlights all planted area locations with details such as the number of trees planted, species planted and spacing in between planted trees. The dashboard is accessed by the public for two specific reasons vis-à-vis to report on the details of trees or mangroves they have planted or to get an update on Fiji's tree-planting revolution, which now has a target of 30 million trees in 15 years. There are other databases that PA can link up, such as theITaukei Lands Trust Board Land Use Master Plan for Suva and Vanua Levu.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Progressing well according to achievement.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Resource (financial and technical) limitations.

Strategic Area PA3: Develop sustainable financing mechanisms for new and existing protected areas.

Objective PA3a: To establish sustainable financing mechanisms to support protected area establishment, management and long-term effectiveness.

Actions

PA3.1 Calculate financial costs for managing a protected area network for Fiji, including establishment as well as long term-management costs.

PA3.2 Identify innovative sustainable financing mechanisms to support the establishment and management of protected areas in Fiji. These may include, for example, green tax, environmental levies, tax-benefit systems
For protected area, establishment of trust funds or endowment funds, etc.

PA3.3 Set up the legal, policy and institutional framework for establishing the financial structures and mechanism for a national protected area network.

The PAC commissioned a study funded by WCS and WWF to: (a) quantify costs of establishing and running marine protected areas; and (b) identify potential sustainable financing options for marine and terrestrial protected areas. Two workshops were held to get broader stakeholder inputs, and a draft policy brief has been developed to identify potential funding mechanism. Conservation International subsequently funded a follow-up study to quantify costs of establishing terrestrial protected areas.

In 2017, Wildlife Conservation Society documented the degree and scale to which Marine Conservation Agreements (MCAs) are being used in coastal waters in Fiji *and contributing to biodiversity protection, fisheries management and sustainable financing in Fiji (2017)*. The report, identified 266.25 sq. km of marine protected areas have been established through partnerships between the tourism sector and local communities, of which 210 sq. km comprised deep water and offshores reefs within the two largest permanent no-take areas (i.e. Namena Marine Reserve and Vatu-i-Ra Conservation Park). A guidance document has been developed with recommendations to policymakers to guide existing and future MCA work.

References:

1. Contribution of Marine conservation agreements to biodiversity protection, fisheries management and sustainable financing in Fiji - https://fiji.wcs.org/Resources/Reports.aspx
2. WCS (2020) Marine Conservation Agreements Guidance for the Tourism Industry in Fiji. Wildlife Conservation Society, Suva, Fiji. 4pp. https://fiji.wcs.org/Resources/Management-Tools-and-Guides.aspx
3. Protected Areas Committee Meeting documents

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

□ Measures taken has been effective

√**Measures taken been partially effective**

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

The selection is based on the progress of establishing the sustainable financing options for Fiji which requires some additional work.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure taken.

This will need financing technical experts to map the details of establishing the sustainable financing mechanisms.

Strategic Area PA4:

Share best practices and lessons learned to improve management effectiveness and governance

Objective PA4: To develop and collate best practice guidelines and disseminate between local and national protected area sites.

PA4.1 Collate best practices for management, governance and sustainable financing from existing protected area sites in Fiji.

PA4.2 Identify key lessons learned and make these available to management authorities across national protected area sites.

PA4.3 Develop appropriate information kits, manuals, toolkits specific to different stakeholders such as planners, community leaders, researchers.

PA4.4 Promote Fiji's best practices for protected area management, governance and sustainable financing in local, regional and international fora.

PA4.4 Promote Fiji's best practices for protected area management, governance and sustainable financing in local, regional and international fora.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

There are many case studies from Fiji on lessons for best practices for management, governance and sustainable financing from existing protected areas in Fiji. The relevant stakeholders continue to share through the Protected Areas Committee and peer-to-peer learning for communities. Some of these are highlighted below.

(a) *The Recovery of a Tropical Marine Mollusc Fishery: A Transdisciplinary Community-Based Approach in Navakavu, Fiji*
The results show that sustained effective marine conservation can, in general, lead to the recovery of seriously degraded fisheries and, in particular, of tropical mollusc fauna. This assessment highlights the value of synthesizing up-to-date taxonomic and scientific knowledge with the knowledge of older fishers, who have long-term multi-species knowledge of changing fisheries.

(b) *A comparison of rural community perceptions and involvement in conservation between the Fiji Islands and Southwestern Portugal*. The study showed that community involvement in conservation provides significant benefits including the ownership of resources and initiatives that integrate traditional and local knowledge into decisionmaking processes and Management activities.

Fiji continues to improve on the development of relevant toolkits to engage stakeholders in biodiversity and Protected Area management. Some of these are highlighted below.

- Colo-i-Suva Forest Park Wildlife - Field guide
- A guide to the birds of the Natewa/ Tunuloa Important Bird Area
- A guide to the birds of the Vatu I Ra Important Bird Area
- A guide to the birds of the Kadavu Important Bird Area
- "Joji the Goby" children's comic highlighting the importance of freshwater systems

As part of the 6th National Report to CBD, Fiji has also produced a short video to highlight some lessons learned. These case studies are listed below:

- **Mali Island Marine Protected Area** – This site is part of the Great Sea Reef locally known as *Cakaulevu* or *Qoliqoli Cokovata* in the Macuata Province. The Great Sea Reef is the third largest reef system in the Southern Hemisphere and has rich marine biodiversity. This is now Fiji's 2nd Ramsar site.
- **Navakuru is a** site under the Ridge to Reef (GEF) Project which is implemented by the Ministry of Environment. It is a partnership between the landowners, the R2R Project and the Department of Forestry in re-afforestation program. The project focuses on improving the health of the Labasa and Qawa rivers through rehabilitation efforts such as tree replanting on degraded land areas and river buffers to maintain key ecosystem functions of the Labasa River. These key ecosystem functions include the provision of clean and safe quality drinking water, food and economic livelihood activities such as agriculture.

- **The Qaranivai Marine Protected Area** is well established and is a vital resource for the coastal communities within the Macuata Province. Previous studies have indicated that the marine resources were declining; fish sizes were not controlled by the local community since their livelihood is a priority. The Qaranivai marine protected area was set up to address these issues.
- **The Nakanacagi Bat Sanctuary** is the first of its kind for Fiji. This sanctuary secures a cave housing the world's only known maternity roost of the endangered Fiji Free-tailed Bat – a species that is known only from Fiji and Vanuatu. The cave was purchased by the National Trust of Fiji through the Rain Forest Trust Fund and will be maintained as a sanctuary in collaboration with the communities that live around the cave.

- **Waisali Forest Reserve** is one of Fiji's most diverse rain forests, located on the island of Vanua Levu. This 300-acre reserve is rich in bird species, and exquisite trees, flowers, and plants, including those used in traditional medicines. It contains a population of the endemic and endangered Fiji ground frog (*Cornufer vitianus*), which was once thought to have become extinct on the island of Vanua Levu. The site is co-managed by the National Trust of Fiji and the local landowning community.
- **Votua Village** in Nadroga has a Waste Water Treatment System which has improved the health of the villagers and improve the marine environment.
- **Monuriki Island Iguana Sanctuary and captive breeding** program saw the first-ever reintroduction of captive-bred iguanas (at Kula Eco Park) into their original habitat (Monuriki) after goat and predator (rat) removal from the island. This was led by the National Trust of Fiji, in collaboration with the people of Yanuya, BirdLife International, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, Taronga Zoo, San Diego Zoo, USGS and the Fiji government.
- **Likuliku Lagoon is an island resort in the Malolo group of island**.
  This site had a program focused on marine flora and fauna including turtle conservation, coral and clam planting, marine protected areas on reefs to improve fish stocks. Likuliku's environmental initiatives took a dramatic turn in 2010 when a single, endemic Fiji Crested Iguana "*Brachylophus vitiensis*" was found at Likuliku. This species was thought to be extinct on the island of Malolo as there had not been any sightings for over 30 years. The national demise of the Fiji crested iguana has been largely due to the destruction of their natural habitat, the Fiji dry forest, of which only 1% remains in Fiji. The Likuliku crested iguana breeding facility is the only one in the world to breed the Fiji crested iguana under natural conditions (*in-situ*), and is bringing the Likuliku iguanas back from from the brink of extinction.
- **Navuniivi Village in Rakiraki Mangrove restoration** undertook 600 mangrove seedling planting on the shores of Navuniivi Village in Ra to help restore traditional fishing grounds. It is a village initiative. The coastal erosion causes the village to venture out into deeper waters to catch fish and the mangrove planting initiative comes with the hope that the mangroves will establish new fishing grounds while to helps stop the erosion of the beach.
- **Naidiri Village – Nadroga** has undertaken 10 years Marine Protected Sites whereby they replant corals and revive their marine life.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

The studies undertaken in Fiji clearly shows that bottom-up approach currently practised in Fiji is very effective.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Limited capacity and awareness of communities to apply best practice.

Reference:

Strategic Area PA5:

Develop legislation and policy to establish and manage a protected area network for Fiji.

Objective PA5:

To identify areas where existing legislation should be strengthened or new legislation drafted to improve the enabling environment for the establishment of a protected area network.

Actions

PA5.1 Review existing legislation and legislative reviews to identify legislative, institutional and administrative challenges in current legal and policy framework.

PA5.2 Draft instructions for amending existing legislation and/or drafting new legislation for protected areas in Fiji.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

At the request of the Protected Area Committee, MACBIO analysed of 85 legal instruments as a basis for marine protected areas and published in 2016. The report "*Review of Legislations, policies, strategies and plans relating to the development of marine protected areas"* was produced.

In 2017 with the support of GEF PAS, IUCN produced the report of the "*Terrestrial Protected Area Law review and Reform"* - a key component of the project. This led to the production of the document: "*National Framework and Strategic Actions for Developing a National System of (Terrestrial) Protected Areas in Fiji".* This document provided a strategic framework and direction for a logical approach, based on best practice, to develop and manage Fiji's national representative system of terrestrial protected areas in partnership with the community and other stakeholders.

Some other relevant documents (to this objective) produced for publication purposes by environmental law NGO(s) include:

- *Towards an effective legal framework for Marine Protected Areas policy and law discussion paper*.
- *Towards an Integrated Oceans Management Policy for Fiji: Policy and Law scoping paper.*
- *Saving Sea Turtles in Fiji: A Guide for Law Enforcement.*
- *Regulating Fiji's Coastal Fisheries: Policy and Law discussion paper.*
- *An analysis of international law, national legislation, judgements, and institutions as they interrelate with territories and areas conserved by indigenous peoples and local communities.*

References:

1. https://www.fela.org.fj/publications.html

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

The studies outlined above showed that we have sufficient reviews and documents for reference purposes to support PA establishment and governance in Fiji.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Further consultations will be required to better understand some of the recommendations and their legal implications. Only then, we can determine the need for a standalone PA legislation and/or regulations can be drafted under the existing legislation.

Strategic Area PA6:

Improve institutional, governance and administrative frameworks for protected areas

Objective PA6:

To establish clear and effective institutional arrangements for the governance and administration of a national protected area network for Fiji.

Actions

PA6.1 Develop a Protected Areas Policy for Fiji to mandate Department of Environment to oversee Fiji's protected areas network under the Environment Management Act 2005 and guidelines

PA6.2 Ensure the legislative framework for protected areas clearly defines the roles of different government departments and agencies in the implementation and enforcement of Protected Areas typology and management plans.

PA6.3 Strengthen the capacity of the Department Of Environment, and other relevant agencies to contribute to the implementation of a national protected area network.

PA6.4 Improve legal governance framework around local community tenure systems.

PA6.5 Define the mandate through NEC and secure funding for Fiji Protected Areas Committee

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP In 2018 Fiji, through the GEF-PAS project, developed "*National Framework and Strategic Actions for Developing a National System of (Terrestrial) Protected Areas in Fiji*" which has laid the foundation and could guide Fiji to an overall PA policy framework for both marine and terrestrial PAs. A terrestrial PA typology: "*Typology for Terrestrial Protected Areas in Fiji: A Policy Brief*" was also developed under GEF-PAS.

In the marine PAs the Marine Working Group (MWG) of the Protected Area Committee (PAC) together with the Marine Protected Area Technical Advisory Committee (MPA TAC) have defined MPA Zone Typology. This is essential to have well-defined types of marine protected areas with clear objectives and clear rules about activities permitted or not within each protected area type. The final draft of the Typology for Marine Managed Areas is now complete and is under discusssions at NEC and government agency level.

References:

1. National Framework and Strategic Actions for Developing a National System of Terrestrial Protected Areas in Fiji
2. Typology for Terrestrial Protected Areas in Fiji.
3. Typology for Marine Managed Areas

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

The achievements reported is enough to move Fiji to the next steps to adopt new policies and PA typologies.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

The recommendations are under discussions at the National Enviornmental Council level.

Focus Area 3: Species Management (SM)

NATIONAL TARGET

By 2025, at least 10 known threatened plant and animal species have been protected and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

INDICATORS

- Reduced trend in extinction risks of Fiji's 10 priority plant and animal species
- Increased trend in the population of the 10 priority threatened plant and animal species for Fiji
- Increased trend in the distribution of the 10 selected plant and animal species

Rationale

Fiji's terrestrial biodiversity consists of approximately 2641 known vascular plants (35% endemic), over 5024 insect species, more than 100 terrestrial molluscs and crustaceans, over 120 bird species, 18 mammals, 36 reptile species, 3 amphibians and 99 freshwater fish species. Fiji's marine fish fauna consists of 1198 species of reef, pelagic and deepwater fish, 6 turtle species, 760 species of gastropods and bivalves, 4 species of sea snakes, 422 species of algal flora, and 33 mangrove and mangrove associated species.

The majority (98%) of Fiji's endemic species occur in the terrestrial ecosystem; the marine ecosystem has an endemism of 1.7%. The majority of Fiji's extinct, endangered and threatened species are terrestrial organisms.

Very little is known about species which have become extinct before the arrival of humans in Fiji. However, we do know that Fiji used to have a remarkable "giant fauna" which became extinct soon after the arrival of humans. This included a flightless terrestrial pigeon the size of the Mauritian Dodo, several megapodes, giant iguanas, giant frogs, terrestrial crocodiles, tortoise and several rails. The loss of these is a tragedy and provides us with an even greater responsibility to conserve what currently remains.

Fiji has over 1200 species listed on the IUCN RedList of Threatened species, of which 41 are Critically Endangered. Twenty-four per cent (24%) of Fiji's Critically Endangered species are endemic to Fiji, and 43% are data deficient.

Fiji's Focal Area 3, Species management contributes to CBD Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity; and Aichi Targets 12 and 13.

Strategic Area SM1: Increase access to expertise/ increased efforts made in the quality research.

Objective SM1: To develop and maintain species resource inventories and databases, for easy updating and use.

Actions

SM1.1 Re-establish, maintain and update the National Resource Inventory (NRI) database by 2019 for all species and their status, including those that are endemic to Fiji, of cultural/subsistence/ economic value, and/or are nationally endangered or threatened.

SM1.2 Link the terrestrial (including insects) and freshwater/marine biodiversity resource inventory database to the Biodiversity Clearing-House Mechanism (CHM) website chmfiji. Wordpress.com Maintained by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Species Working Group (SWG).

SM1.3 Prioritise for targeted conservation/ management effort, and in consultation with relevant stakeholders, including communities, 20 species that are endemic to Fiji, of cultural/ subsistence/economic value, and/or are nationally endangered or threatened.

SM1.4 Undertake conservation management-oriented research, in consultation with relevant stakeholders and communities, on the 20 prioritised species identified in

SM1.5 Explore potential sustainable use of non-threatened and non-endangered species such as Ivi (*Inocarpus fagifer*) and *Ficus* spp to increase the value of their habitat (in collaboration with relevant Government staff and community representatives).

SM1.6 Develop appropriate procedural protocols for public and institutional access to biodiversity database.

SM1.7 Draw up an appropriate framework and mechanism for identifying and monitoring the conservation status of indicator species regularly (linking to database).

SM1.8 Draw up an appropriate framework and mechanism for identifying and monitoring the status of the 20 priority species as identified under SM1.3.

SM1.9 Monitor climate change impacts on species diversity and ecosystem diversity to enhance implementation of the CBD at the local level. Complete a gap analysis and prioritisation for marine, terrestrial and wetland ecosystems to identify key biodiversity areas for biodiversity protection to meet Fiji's national targets and international commitments.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP Currently various Government Ministries, NGO partners and academic institutions maintain their database.

The Ministry of Environment through the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002 has a listing of species which are believed to be threatened with extinction and species which require protection. The Fiji CITES scientific council and the Fiji CITES Management Authority work towards ensuring that these species are traded sustainably or protected. The Ministry also enforces the Environment Management Act 2005 and the subsequent regulations. Species that are endemic, critically endangered or endangered are protected through the various processes including the Environment Impact Assessments.

A Species Working Group under the NBSAP has been set up to bring together individuals and organisations working in species research and monitoring to work towards coordination of species work in Fiji. Through the Species Working Group, work is already underway for research and conservation action for several of Fiji's critically endangered species, updating of IUCN RedList for Fiji's threatened plants and development of species action plans. These species include:

- **Endangered species:** the Fiji sago palm, Fiji Acmopyle, Fiji Pterocymbium, Fiji ground frog, Fiji Petrel, Collared Petrel, Fiji crested and banded iguanas;
- **Species of economic value:** Sea cucumbers, freshwater mussels, groupers, sandalwood, coral, clams, pearl oysters, pakapaka.

For the marine environment, there has been a significant contribution towards improving our knowledge about Fiji's traded fish species by the Ministry of Fisheries.

Discussions towards the development of an appropriate framework and mechanism for identifying and monitoring the conservation status of indicator species have begun through various platforms. Baseline biodiversity assessments for Fiji's protected areas and national pilot REDD+ site have documented some of these methods and continue to strengthen them.

References:

1. Mangubhai S, Nand Y, Ram R, Fox M, Tabunakawai-Vakalalabure M, Vodivodi T (2016) Value chain analysis of the wild-caught sea cucumber fishery in Fiji. **Wildlife Conservation Society and Fiji**
2. **Department of Fisheries. Report No. 02/16.** Suva, Fiji, 66 pp.
3. Mangubhai S., Fox M. and Nand Y. 2017. Value chain analysis of the wild-caught mud crab fishery in Fiji. **Report No. 02/17. Wildlife Conservation Society**: Suva, Fiji. 100 p.
4. Thomas A.S., Mangubhai S., Vandervord C., Fox M. and Nand Y. 2018b. Impact of Tropical Cyclone Winston on women mud crab fishers in Fiji. **Climate and Development**. DOI:10.1080/17565529.2018.1547677
5. Lalavanua W, Prince J, Loganimoce E, Tamanitoakula J, Naleba M, Naisilisili W, Dulunaqio S (2018) Temporal variation in catch composition, fishing gear and time spent fishing in an artisanal coral reef fishery: an assessment through fishers' perceptions and experiences. **SPC Fisheries Newsletter. 157: 34–39**

6. Kirmani SN, Brehme C, Cakacaka T, Dulunaqio S, Fisher R, Hathaway S, Koroi I, Loganimoce E, O'Brien M, Masibalavu V, Naikatini A, Segaidina M, Thomas N, Tikoca S, Tubuitamana P, Tuiwawa M, Vido S, Mangubhai S (2018) Terrestrial and Archaeological Surveys of Kilaka Forest Conservation Area. **Wildlife Conservation Society. Report No. 04/18.** Suva, Fiji. 57 pp.
7. Sadovy de Mitcheson Y, Mangubhai S, Witter A, Kuridrani N, Batibasaga A, Waqainabete P, Sumaila R (2018) Value Chain Analysis of the Fiji Grouper Fishery. **Report of Science and Conservation of Fish Aggregations (SCRFA),** United States. 57 pp
8. https://www.speciesconservation.org/case-studies-projects/humphead-wrasse/1794 http://c3experiences.wordpress.com/
9. https://naturefiji.org/project/conservation-and-sustainable-management-of-soga
10. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/332981560_The_conservation_value_of_secondary_vegetation_for_Fijian_woodland_birds
11. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/261100133_The_distribution_of_the_Fiji_frogs_Platymantis_spp_New_records_and_ramifications
12. https://www.researchgate.net/publication/221970505_Conservation_and_Management_of_the_Endangered_Fiji_Sago_Palm_Metroxylon_vitiense_in_Fijii

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√**Measures taken have been effective**

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

This is evident from the achievements.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Invasive alien species continue to threaten Fiji's endangered and endemic species. A consolidated species database, coordinated research (esp. in the area of distribution, ecology and behaviour) and conservation actions to support the management of Fiji's biologically, ecologically, culturally and economically important species would be required.

There is limited taxonomic expertise within the country.

Reference:

1. Fiji NBSAP 2020 – 2025

Strategic Area SM2: Decrease in illegal trade of endangered and threatened species

Objective SM2a: To assist in the improvement of local port/border control enforcement and monitoring, and increase support and capacity for enforcement and monitoring of the Convention on International Trade in Wild Species of Fauna and Flora (CITES).

Actions

SM2.1 further strengthen relationships/collaborations with border control and enforcement authorities (e.g. Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF), Fiji Islands Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA), Marine Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), and the Police) through a memorandum of understanding or agreement

SM2.2 Draw up an appropriate framework and mechanism for identifying and monitoring the status of CITES listed species

SM2.3 Strengthen surveillance and reporting of marine vessels including ships and yachts.

The Ministry of Environment through the Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002 has a listing of species which are believed to be threatened with extinction and species which require protection. The Fiji CITES scientific council and the Fiji CITES Management Authority works towards ensuring that these species are protected and any trade is regulated.

The Ministry of Environment trains border control Enforcement Agency officers on CITES listed species, carrying out an average of 1-2 workshops per year since 2015 and works closely with both the Fiji Customs, Fiji Police (and Interpol) and Biosecurity Authority of Fiji. The Ministry of Environment has a MoU with the Fiji Income Revenue and Customs Authority (FRCA) to address CITES issues.

A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) is in place to guide the Ministry's response to illegal trade.

In 2020, the Ministry of Environment launched an Iguana Policy for the protection of (native) iguana species to further guide the Ministry's work.

References:

1. Ministry of Environment Annual Report
2. https://fijisun.com.fj/2020/05/22/minister-praise-islanders-in-role-to-protect-iguanas/

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

In 2018, the endemic Fiji crested iguanas were amongst the 600 reptiles confiscated from a wildlife trafficking operation in Spain. This indicates that wildlife trafficking is still occurring. Most of Fiji's iguana islands are isolated and require monitoring and surveillance. The National Trust of Fiji, in collaboration with San Diego Zoo and USGS work towards building ranger capacity and equipping them with the necessary tools to conduct monitoring and surveillance.

Reference:
https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/more-600-smuggled-reptiles-found-in-spain-9-people-arrested

Objective SM2b: To increase capacity for enforcement and monitoring of the Endangered Protected Species Act (EPS) 2002 and Regulations.

Actions

SM 2.4 Review the schedules of the listed native species and other related provisions in the EPS Act 2002. The Act is administered by the Department of Environment.
SM 2.5 Draw up an appropriate framework and mechanism for identifying and monitoring the status of rare and endangered species.
SM 2.6 Enforce EPS Act 2002
SM 2.7 Establish administrative responsibilities and strengthen capacity within relevant line ministries and authorities.
SM 2.8 Work with Fish and Forest wardens within the communities to strengthen capacity in identifying and preventing poaching/removal of protected species.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

Local taxonomic experts and technical agencies, including the Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Fisheries, academic institutions and NGOs have contributed to the work of the Ministry of Environment, and an amended species list to the Fiji EPS Act (2002). The amended list was passed in Parliament and resulted in Act No. 10 of 2017 – An Act to Amend the Fiji Endangered and Protected Species Act (2002).

The amended list to the Fiji EPS Act (2002) – Act No. 10 of 2017, is currently being reviewed to further provide scientific justification for the inclusion of species in each of the Schedules I and II and to relist some of the additional species that requires protection. The new listing is ready for submission to the Management Authority and Cabinet before it is to be tabled in Parliament by the Minister for Environment.

The Fiji Government continues to work in collaboration with stakeholders through the Fiji CITES Management Authority and Fiji CITES Scientific Council. The trade of species is monitored through the registration of companies under the EPS Act, issuance of permits and compliance.

Televisions advertisement(s) and training of the Provincial Conservation Officers under the legislations of environment have been conducted for awareness purposes.

The Fiji Ministry of Fisheries Ministry of Forestry and stakeholders have invested in the engagement of local communities in surveillance through the fish wardens and forest warden programs. This is especially evident in the western and northern divisions of Fiji. The program is a collaboration between the Ministry of Fisheries, Ministry of Forestry, the Provincial Offices, local communities and non-governmental organisation.

References:

1. https://www.fiji.gov.fj/Media-Centre/News/Trained-wardens-to-curb-illegal-fishing
2. http://www.parliament.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Act-10-Endangered-and-Protected-Species-Amendment.pdf
3. Ministry of Environment Annual report

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

This is evident from the achievements and progress.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

A framework and mechanism for monitoring the status of rare and endangered species would assist in meeting this target.

Reference:

Request from the Western Division stakeholders for better coordination of conservation and species programs at the provincial level.

Strategic Area SM3: Increase Government's contribution to conservation budgets.
Objective SM3a: To secure a national budget allocation for species conservation.

Actions

SM3.1 Devise conservation fund derived from one or more sustainable financing option (including departure tax, environmental levy, etc.).

SM3.2 Establish a conservation fund to be managed by National Trust of Fiji under government budgetary process.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP The Government continued to provide funding for biodiversity conservation work since 2015 to the Ministry of Environment. The Ministry has also worked to get donor and development partner support for its environmental work. The Government has allocated funding for the National Trust of Fiji to carry out its mandate and all other line Ministries.

Projects funded by GEF have local government contributions to supplement the project. In this reporting period, Fiji implemented 3 GEF programs that had a biodiversity focus:

1. GEF Project ID: 9095 - Building Capacities to Address Invasive Alien Species to Enhance the Chances of Long-term Survival of Terrestrial Endemic and Threatened Species on Taveuni Island and Surrounding Islets
2. GEF Project ID: 5398 - Implementing a "Ridge to Reef" Approach to Preserve Ecosystem Services, Sequester Carbon, Improve Climate Resilience and Sustain Livelihoods in Fiji (Fiji R2R)
3. GEF Project ID: 3819 - PAS: Forestry and Protected Area Management

The Ministry of Environment and National Trust of Fiji also receive technical support from regional organisations such as SPC, SPREP and NGO partners for biodiversity conservation work.

References:

1. Parliament of the Republic of Fiji – Budget briefings 2018
2. Parliament of the Republic of Fiji – 2019 – 2020 Budget documents - http://fijiclimatechangeportal.gov.fj/document/ecal-action
3. http://fijiclimatechangeportal.gov.fj/document/fiji-sovereign-green-bond-impact-report
4. https://www.thegef.org/project/pas-forestry-and-protected-area-management
5. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival
6. https://www.thegef.org/project/implementing-ridge-reef-approach-preserve-ecosystem-services-sequester-carbon-improve

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√ Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Limited financial/techanical resources.

Reference:

Strategic Area SM4: Improved communication amongst stakeholders, including communities on threatened and endangered species.

Objective SM4: To establish practical systems and processes for information sharing on threatened and endangered species.

Actions

SM4.1 Include threatened and endangered species in the Biodiversity Clearing House Mechanism

SM4.2 Produce, in all languages, guides on the 20 priority endemic, endangered, or threatened species of plants and animals in Fiji (as identified in SM1.3).

SM4.3 Produce appropriate educational resources on the 10 priority endemic, endangered or threatened species of plants and animals in Fiji for use in the primary and secondary school system.
SM4.4 Develop and implement a communications strategy for priority species that are of cultural, subsistence or economic value.
SM4.5 Increase Ministry of Environment representation/participation/presentation at District/Provincial meetings.
SM4.6 Establish a reporting mechanism in collaboration with District and Provincial Councils and non-iTaukei groups.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

The Ministry of Environment has carried out and participated at Provincial meetings over the years and works closely with the Fiji Ministry of Itaukei Affairs-appointed Conservation Officers in each of the 14 provinces of Fiji, equipping them with the necessary tools to support the Provincial Office in the implementation of conservation programs in their respective provinces. These Conservation Officers have been crucial in the advancement of species research and engaging local communities in building our knowledge of Fiji's species. Most provinces, through the establishment of the Conservation Officers and their work with CSOs such as FLMMA, WCS, CI, Birdlife, WWF and NFMV have established Yaubula (Environment) Management Support Teams at the village level, district level and provincial level. Some of these, such as the Bua Yaubula Management Support team are self-funding and run programs to build the capacity of their members. Not all provinces have fully developed their Yaubula Management Support Team, and the Conservation Officers continue to learn from each other on how to engage their stakeholders.

Communication and Advocacy strategies have been developed for several of Fiji's terrestrial-based endangered species through the production of children-friendly colouring books, life-sized models of species, newspaper articles, television talk bask shows, radio talkback shows and social media.
Publications have been produced on Fiji's species. Some of these have been listed below.

- A Field Guide to the Mangrove and Seagrass Species of Fiji
- Bird identification guides
- Guide to the Dragonflies and damselflies of Fiji

A national campaign to engage Fijian people to not fish or eat Fiji's grouper species from June to September successfully resulted in the banning their harvest in these months.

Through the office of the Ministry of Rural and Maritime Development, Ministry of Environment and some NGO partners resource users are also engaged in biodiversity conservation programs. Some projects include planting of mangroves, establishment of mangrove nurseries, and protection of seagrass nurseries, planting of trees, environmental rehabilitation works and the establishment of Fiji's first bat sanctuary at Nakanacagi, in Vanua Levu, Fiji.

References:

1. https://itaukeiaffairsboard.com/environment/
2. https://fijivillage.com/t/ITaukei-Affairs-Board-to-have-14-new-Litter-Prevention-Officers-in-each-respective-province-95sk2r/
3. https://naturefiji.org/drautabua-acmopyle-sahniana/
4. https://naturefiji.org/fijian-cicada-raiateana-knowlesi-nanai/
5. https://naturefiji.org/watch-emerging-fijian-cicada-nanai-every-8-years/
6. https://naturefiji.org/legend-of-the-nanai/
7. https://www.fijitimes.com/conserve-soga-and-sustain-a-rural-industry/

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

 Measures taken been partially effective

 Measures taken been ineffective

 Unknown

Based on achievements.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Central database systems would assist in meeting this target.

Focal Area 4: Management Of Invasive Species (Mis)

Invasive Alien Species (IAS) remain a significant threat to Fiji's biodiversity and livelihoods. Fiji has undertaken several measures to prevent, eradicate and control IAS in Fiji, especially for introduced mammalian predators.

NATIONAL TARGET

Fiji's invasive alien species (IAS), pathways, risks and threats to biodiversity and livelihoods are identified; priority IAS are controlled or eradicated, and by 2023 measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

INDICATORS

- Assessment and measurement of the impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity and food security.
- Impact of policy responses, legislation and management plans to control and prevent the spread of invasive and alien species.

Rationale:

Pathways for the introduction of IAS into a country can be managed through improved border controls and quarantine, including through better coordination with national and regional bodies responsible for plant and animal health. The Biosecurity Authority for Fiji (BAF) is the lead agency for border control and quarantine. However, given the multiple pathways for invasive species introductions and that because multiple alien species are already present in many countries, it will be necessary for BAF, the Ministry of Environment and NGOs to work closely to prioritise control and eradication efforts on those species and pathways which will have the greatest impact on biodiversity and/or which are the most resource-effective to address

Strategic Area MIS1: Target research to support improved knowledge on invasive alien species in Fiji.

Objective MIS1a: To identify pathways for invasive alien species introduction.

Actions

MIS1.1 Identify invasive alien species pathways as potential threats (to biodiversity) within Fiji and outside national borders.
MIS1.2 Prioritise invasive alien species threats and pathways for intervention.
MIS1.3 Complete risk assessments and develop response procedures for invasive alien species threats and pathways (at national and inter-island borders).
MIS1.4 Identify and prioritise knowledge gaps for priority invasive alien species /pathways and support research needs.
MIS1.5 Conduct research on the integration of impacts of invasive alien species on biodiversity cultural and commercial values.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP At the global level, there has been an assessment of invasive species that are particularly harmful for island ecosystems such as those that occur in Fiji and the rest of Oceania. At the institutional level, based on their relevant interests, there has been some level of alien invasive species pathway analysis done. Some of the species for which this has been done at the international border are: the Brown Tree Snake and Giant African Snail.

Risk Assessment pathways is an on-going activity for BAF as part of the import risk assessment pathway. It also incorporate alerts received from OIE & IPPC on recent incursions of Invasive species in plant and animal (both terrestrial and aquatic) around the world that has a potential pathway to enter Fiji.

In 2012, through a grant from the EU, community-based incursion response plans developed for the mongoose on Taveuni, Kadavu and Gau; and Giant Invasive Iguana incursion response plans for Taveuni.

In 2017, Fiji began implementing the GEF 6 project: Building Capacities to Address Invasive Alien Species to Enhance the Chances of Long-term Survival of Terrestrial Endemic and Threatened Species on Taveuni Island and Surrounding Islets. This project will deliver on the definition (Fiji definition) of IAS, prioritise threats and pathways for intervention, complete risk assessments and develop response procedures for invasive alien species threats and pathways, and identify and prioritise knowledge gaps for priority species and pathways. This project is being implemented by the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, with support from its stakeholders.

References:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival
2. NatureFiji-MareqetiViti strategy 2014 – 2019
3. Birdlife International - https://www.birdlife.org/invasive-species

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

One of the key challenges has been the definition of Invasive alien species and the tendency for it to be confused with agro-centric weeds, pests and diseases.

Invasive species and programs remain within relevant institutions. National database to document all the rat eradication programs, biosecurity plans, feasibility studies and incursion response plans that have been developed. Some of these issues will be addressed through the GEF6 project being implemented by the Biosecurity Authority of Fiji.

Reference:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Objective MIS1b: To establish and maintain a national invasive alien species database.

Actions

MIS1.6 Conduct national invasive alien species stocktake survey in consultation with all stakeholders with invasive alien species data and knowledge.

MIS1.7 Develop a framework for data sharing in support of centralising access to invasive alien species information (particularly biodiversity threats) in Fiji.

MIS1.8 Put in place an invasive alien species information review process to continually assess gaps.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP Databases on invasive alien species occurrence within Fiji and within different islands and islets exist with various stakeholders that work with invasive species, e.g. Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Forestry, and University of the South Pacific, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti and Birdlife International. This data is yet to be collated into a national database.

Through the GEF 6 program being implemented by BAF, a desk review of IAS in Fiji and their occurrence by island has been developed by Stanford (2019). This will be available under the National Invasive Species Framework and Strategic Action Plan that is being developed under the project.

Despite the absence of a national framework on invasive species, stakeholders have come together to effectively address some issues such as those below:

1. The frequent encounters of the Giant African Snail at the border. In 2016, as of April, 28 adult Giant African Snails and approximately 500 eggs were intercepted at the Kings Wharf. This was the largest in the history of Quarantine and Biosecurity Operation in Fiji.
2. The plans to open up direct flights from Guam to Fiji prompted the development of the Brown Tree Snake incursion response plan amongst stakeholders.
3. The confirmed presence of the Green iguana (locally called the Giant invasive iguana) prompted nationwide awareness campaigns and a development of an eradication strategy.
4. Island restoration programs successfully eradicated rats and goats for biodiversity. This helped build expertise within Fiji to successfully carry out rat and goat eradication programs.
5. Incursion of the cane toad and mynah birds into Rotuma led to the signing of an MoU between BAF, BirdLife International and NatureFiji-MareqetiViti

References:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival
2. Republic of Fiji National Invasive Species Framework and Strategic Action Plan (NISFSAP) – DRAFT.
3. NatureFiji-MareqetiViti strategy 2014 – 2019
4. https://www.fbcnews.com.fj/news/new-mou-aims-at-eradicating-agricultural-pests-on-rotuma/
5. Birdlife International - https://www.birdlife.org/invasive-species

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Need for more resources (both financial and techanical).

Reference:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Strategic Area MIS2: Strengthen national legislation, policies and strategies to support effective prevention and management of invasive alien species.

Objective MIS2a: To conduct a legislative review and gap analysis for invasive alien species.

Actions

MIS2.1 To conduct a legislative review and gap analysis, including review of Fiji's compliance with the International Maritime Organisation Ballast Water Management Convention.

MIS2.2 Update national policy and legislation on invasive alien species, if identified by the gap analysis.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP This component will be covered under the GEF 6 project. The Biosecurity Act 2008 is under review to be inclusive.

References:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survivall

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Need for a national database for invasive species of significance to Fiji.

Reference:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Objective MIS2b: To develop a National Invasive Alien Species Strategy and Action Plan (NISSAP).

Actions

MIS2.3 Conduct an assessment of the severity and distribution of invasive alien species threats to Fiji's biodiversity and prioritise species for management.

MIS2.4 Identify and recognise the potential for commercial and other utilisation interests of invasive alien species and develop appropriate safeguards.

MIS2.5 Prioritise invasive alien species threats and sites for management action in Fiji (e.g. biosecurity, eradication, containment and control).

MIS2.6 Adopt relevant biosecurity regulations, standards and tools to ensure biodiversity considerations in the decision making processes involved in importation and local movement of invasive alien species.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP The National Invasive Species Framework and Strategic Action Plan that is being developed under the GEF 6 project will cover this objective.

There are lessons to be learnt from programs implemented before the GEF 6 program, e.g. successful mammalian predator eradications from 14 important seabird islands in Fiji; and successful goat eradications from two islands important for the critically endangered iguanas. The widely consulted post-eradication biosecurity plans developed for these eradication programs have detailed stakeholders and key operations that need to be consulted.

The use of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network template for planning and implementing mammalian eradication programs has been particularly important for the success of these programs.

References:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

The National Invasive Species Framework and Strategic Action Plan actions to be aligned to the objectives of the CBD.

Reference:

Objective MIS2c: To strengthen the role and function of the Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce (FIST) as the multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism to provide policy and technical advice on Invasive Alien Species and biosecurity to the National Environment Council, Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, Department of Environment and other relevant bodies.

Actions

MIS2.7 Develop a Terms of Reference for the Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce (FIST) and its scope of work to recognise different levels of management.

MS2.8 Provide needed resources and policy mandate to ensure that the FIST is mandated and appropriately linked to other related advisory bodies such as Species Working Group and others with clear reporting arrangements.

MIS2.9 Facilitate FIST developing MOUs with other agencies under NEC such as Department of Environment to facilitate effective management by Biosecurity

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP A Fiji Invasive Species Task Force (FIST) was established with the assistance of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network and the Pacific Invasive Partnership and the Terms of Reference developed and endorsed by the National Environment Council in 2014.

The FIST Terms of Reference identifies BAF as the Chair and the Ministry of Environment as the Secretariat. The frequency of meetings of FIST, its membership and its role are stipulated within the ToR.

BAF has established MoUs with relevant stakeholders to address IAS issues in Fiji, and continues to participate in dialogue to improve its services.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

□ Measures taken has been effective

√Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

The National Invasive Species Framework and Strategic Action Plan will need to specify the roles of stakeholders in the implementation of the document; and align actions to the objectives of the CBD.

Objective MIS2d: To actively participate in international and regional fora such as the Convention on Biological Diversity, Pacific Invasives Partnership (PIP) and regional discussions in areas such as Genetically Modified Organisms, genetics, risk of pets debates, and lessons learning for improved practice and policy lessons in invasive alien species and biosecurity.

Actions

MIS2.10	Appoint focal points within the Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce to coordinate and Provide advice to government on biosafety issues and ensure Fiji's participation in the current regional and international biosafety lessons learning, sharing best practices and planning.
MIS2.11	Develop clear TOR for roles and responsibilities for the FIST focal point and Memorandum of agreement between FIST and focal point to operationalise and implement the TOR.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP The National Invasive Species Framework and Strategic Action Plan identifies the need to appoint a National Coordinating Body for Invasive Species. This is under discussion. The outcomes of the GEF 6 project being implemented by BAF may contribute towards this objective.

References:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Techanical and Financial resources required.

Reference:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Objective MIS2e: To ensure effective implementation and monitoring of national Invasive Alien Species policies, strategies, programmes and initiatives.

Actions

MIS2.12	Establish administrative responsibilities for national invasive alien species management and biosecurity within the Department of Environment and Biosecurity Authority of Fiji.
MIS2.13	Include in MOU with Fiji Invasive Species Taskforce provision for the establishment, as needed, of technical working groups that are responsible to the National Environment Council
MIS2.14	Secure resources and increase capacity within the Department of Environment and Biosecurity Authority of Fiji through government resources and external funding for invasive alien species and biosecurity programmes.
MIS2.15	Integrate invasive alien species and biosecurity management at provincial, district and community management levels to improve local management and participation.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP The establishment of the FIST and its ToR is the first step towards this objective. The GEF 6 program has greatly improved BAF resources to build capacity to respond to IAS in Fiji, e.g. the GII eradication program.

References:

1. NEC Records

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Techanical and Financial resources required.

Reference:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Strategic Area MIS3: Improve monitoring and surveillance of invasive alien species in Fiji.

Objective MIS3a: To maintain international standards of national quarantine and biosecurity surveillance programme

Actions

MIS3.1 Implement the national quarantine monitoring and surveillance programme with citizen participation.

MIS3.2 Improve regional collaboration between quarantine services and relevant regional institutions/organisations to develop regional action plans and strategies for the prevention of introduction and spread of invasive alien species

MIS3.3 Develop an invasive alien species alert system for Fiji.

MIS3.4 Secure sustainable funding mechanisms for surveillance, monitoring and enforcement.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP Before Fiji secured the current GEF 6 project, invasive species programs in Fiji have been carried out by various organisations according to their priorities. The GEF 6 project is a huge achievement for Fiji as it seeks to consolidate data and programs that have been implemented so far; and to create an enabling environment to better address invasive species in Fiji.

Existing quarantine, early alert systems and stakeholder engagement should be greatly improved through the GEF 6 project. The project also allows capturing and sharing lessons learnt through previously implemented programs.

Regional collaboration between quarantine services and relevant regional organisations have been achieved through the Pacific Plant Protection Organization (hosted by SPC) addressing Biosecurity and Quarantine issues for the region. BAF works in collaboration with other stakeholders such as PHAMA plus.

References:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Techanical and Financial resources required.

Reference:

https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Objective MIS3b: To review and strengthen control and response programmes for priority invasive alien species, e.g. Biosecurity Authority of Fiji -National Framework to termite response.

Actions

MIS3.5 Assess and review existing national response framework.

MIS3.6 Develop control programmes for priority invasive alien species.

MIS3.7 Secure adequate financial and technical resources for the management of invasive alien species.

MIS3.8 Develop protocols which require an Environmental Impact Assessment by an independent body before the introduction of exotic species, in line with the Environment Management Act 2005 or total ban of introduction of exotic species

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP There are lessons to be learnt from programs implemented before the GEF 6 program, e.g. successful mammalian predator eradications from 14 important seabird islands in Fiji, successful goat eradications from two islands important for the critically endangered iguanas. The widely consulted post-eradication biosecurity plans developed for these programs have detailed stakeholders and key operations that need to be consulted.

The use of the Pacific Invasives Learning Network template for planning and implementing mammalian eradication programs has been particularly important for the success of these programs.

Some other programs implemented:

Early warning system through border surveillance – installation of Traps at identified high-risk entry points.

Community-based incursion response plans for the mongoose (Gau, Kadavu and Taveuni) – 2015 – NFMV, BAF, Birdlife International

Community-based incursion response plans for the Giant Invasive Iguana (Taveuni) – 2015 – NFMV, BAF, Birdlife International

Incursion Response Plan for the Brown Tree Snake – 2015 - NFMV, BAF, Birdlife International

The lessons learnt from these programs will be incorporated into the National Invasive Species Framework and Strategic Action Plan under the GEF 6 project. This important document will be a good guide for all stakeholders that should be involved in invasive alien species in Fiji.

References:

1. https://www.thegef.org/project/building-capacities-address-invasive-alien-species-enhance-chances-long-term-survival

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Strategic Area MIS4: Raise awareness in Fiji, including with visitors, to reduce the introduction of invasive alien species.

Objective MIS4: To put in place an invasive alien species public awareness programme, including at all ports of entry into Fiji, as well as at major inter-island transport locations.

Actions

MIS4.1 Develop an invasive species communications strategy for Fiji that also targets visitors and highlights the risks and penalties associated with the import of IAS to Fiji.

MIS 4.2 Develop awareness materials for visitors and local communities on invasive alien species on and strategies to prevent their introduction and spread

MIS 4.3 Develop public, especially community awareness on the threats posed by inter-island traffic in the spread of invasive alien species, giving priority to Taveuni and islands in the province of Lau, Lomaiviti and Kadavu.

MIS 4.4. Carry out awareness and education on priority species to gain public support and vigilance to reduce the spread of IAS.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP A significant investment by the Birdlife International and European Union under the project titled "Island Ecosystems, Local Livelihoods – Combating Invasive Alien Species in the Pacific for the Benefit of Biodiversity and People", was implemented by NatureFiji-MareqetiViti from 2012 to 2014. This project resulted in:

Mongoose incursion response plans for Kadavu, Gau and Taveuni;

Giant Invasive Iguana incursion response plans for Taveuni;

Brown tree snake incursion response plans for Fiji (at national border); and various community awareness programs and posters highlighting the risk of invasion posed by the Mongoose, Giant Invasive Iguana and Brown Tree Snake.

Successful mammalian eradication programs implemented between 2015 and 2020 saw greater awareness and stakeholder engagement, especially of the provincial offices of Kadavu and Nadroga/ Navosa and tourism operators around the islands of Monuriki, Monu and Yabu.

References:

1. https://naturefiji.org/biosecurity-officers-attend-alien-reptile-surveillance-training/

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.
The current GEF 6 project being implemented by BAF should contribute significantly in delivering this objective.

Focal Area 5: Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming (EEM)

NATIONAL TARGET

Agencies have put in place relevant legislations and policies, and continue to work on policies such as Access and Benefit Sharing policy frameworks that support NBSAP implementation; businesses and production sectors are adopting Fiji's Green Growth Framework; and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to develop and implement plans for sustainable production and consumption.

INDICATOR

- Increased initiatives by the different sectors to minimize their impact on Fiji's biodiversity.
- Increased political awareness and support for biodiversity policies.
- Increased communication programmes focused on biodiversity to promote actions and social corporate responsibility with the private sector.
- Increased engagement and partnerships to raise awareness, evoke active responses, information sharing and cross-sector coordination and communication.

Rationale.

Creating an enabling environment is imperative to ensuring countries effectively conserve biodiversity and ensure biodiversity loss is reduced and even halved. Legislative frameworks and policies are essential to support conservation and biodiversity. Legislative and Policy frameworks for biodiversity conservation in Fiji existed to ensure biodiversity is conserved supporting sustainable development. Extractive sectors such as Mining, Forestry, Fisheries, Lands and Agriculture are implementing and enforcing legislation and policy frameworks to support economic development. These legal frameworks sometimes incorporate pervasive incentives detrimental to biodiversity conservation.

The Environment Management Act 2005, which came into force in 2005 has some of these pieces of law as scheduled Acts. The Environment Management Act 2005 is administered by the Department of Environment with the purpose to ensure sustainable development and utilization of Fiji's natural resources.

In recognition of the critical role biodiversity plays in Fiji's sustainable growth and development, the Fiji government has also developed the Green Growth Policy Framework and the National Development Plan to guide sustainable development and encourage promotion of green technologies in Fiji. The Ministry of Environment has also developed various policy documents to guide the Ministry's work. This includes the Policy on Coral Reefs and Iguanas and to Clean Fiji.

This focal Area supports CBD Strategic Goal A: Addressing the underlying causes of biodiversity loss, directly contributing to the achievement of Aichi Target 4: By 2020, at the latest Governments, businesses, and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

Strategic Area EEM1:
Appropriate legal, policy and institutional frameworks that support implementation of Fiji's NBSAP are in place.

Objective EEM1:

Strengthen relevant law, and policy frameworks that support NBSAP implementation and the protection and wise use of biodiversity.

Actions

EEM1.1 Update status or conduct gap analysis of relevant laws, policy and institutional frameworks required to support NBSAP implementation in the various thematic areas.

EEM1.2 Strengthen the implementation of effective and efficient enforcement systems for Environment Laws at national, provincial and local levels.

EEM1.3 Strengthen enforcement and identify gaps for effective implementation of EIA guidelines and strengthen national capacities of EIA practitioners and enforcement officers.

EEM1.4 Increase public awareness on environment and related laws and policies.

EEM1.5 Increase political awareness and motivation to support environmental good governance and implementation.

EEM1.6 Carry out an institutional assessment of the environment sector and implement an institutional development strategy to support NBSAP implementation.

EEM1.7 Strengthen enforcement and identify gaps for effective implementation of EIA guidelines and strengthen national capacities of EIA practitioners and enforcement officers.

EEM1.8 Assess the extent to which climate change impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services have been assessed by national impact.

EEM1.9 Establish a monitoring system to capture observed impacts, with a particular focus on vulnerable ecosystems

EEM1.10 identify other sources of information on linkages between biodiversity and climate change in the country and make arrangements for information sharing

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

Fiji has been progressing well in providing an enabling environment for biodiversity conservation through developing legislative and policy frameworks to support local actions on the ground. In 2012, a legal review was conducted to specifically assess legislative gaps for the development and management of marine and terrestrial Protected Areas. To produce well-informed EIA reports, the NBSAP technical experts such as the species group, marine and terrestrial working groups, protected areas and wetlands group are effectively engaged in reviewing of EIA Terms of References and reports through the Ministry of Environment.

At the divisional level, the Department for women in the Northern Division, organised a national level planning on how to work on the thematic area of Gender-responsive to Climate Change. They coordinated with the relevant agencies the revision and development of a disaster risk management and climate change plans. Ministry of Women is also involved in consultation with relevant stakeholders in strengthening women participation in traditional and ecological knowledge and biodiversity and decision-making bodies.

A parliament decision articulated the need for decision-making bodies to have 50% women participation, including, women representatives and participation in community development boards and education boards.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

□ Measures taken has been effective

√□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown

This assessment has been made through historical observation and development of biodiversity policies, plans and legislative frameworks and through expert opinion from working in the Natural Resource Management (NRM) space. Appropriate legislative and policy frameworks for biodiversity conservation exist. However, a systematic methodology is essential to assess/monitor the effectiveness and impact of these frameworks on biodiversity, and Climate Change and how they have contributed to the achievement of this objective.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Legislative and policy frameworks are sufficient to enable biodiversity conservation in Fiji. The obstacle lies in the limitation of resources to enforce widely (the islands are dispersed over a vast area of sea).

Reference:

Strategic Area EEM2:

Strengthen application and operationalization of the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) in Fiji.

Objective EEM2:

Develop and implement relevant Access and Benefit Sharing policy and legislation in Fiji.

Actions

EEM2.1 Define the overall ABS strategy and approach for Fiji.

EEM2.2 The Department of Environment to review and develop appropriate laws, policy for ABS implementation.

EEM2.3 Establish institutional arrangements and assignment of role and responsibilities within the national institutional landscape to implement ABS

EEM2.4 Define procedures and rules for access to traditional knowledge, to protect the rights of indigenous and local communities and to ensure equitable sharing of benefits.

EEM2.5 Define common ABS arrangements with countries at the regional level.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

In 2018 Fiji implemented a UNDP GEF funded project on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) to address issues affecting national capacity to implement, institutionalise and operationalise ABS Agreements and the Nagoya Protocol which Fiji ratified in 2014.

The project was implemented by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration with the Ministry of Itaukei Affairs, Ministry of Fisheries and USP-Institute of Applied Sciences.

Fiji developed a draft ABS Policy framework that has gone through stakeholder consultations and validation in 2018. The draft ABS policy includes institutional arrangements and assignment of roles and responsibilities of ministries such as the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, through the Provincial Councils, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment.

The draft ABS Policy Framework guides the free prior informed *consent* (FPIC) along with mutually agreed terms are observed and monitored through transparent processes.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

□ Measures taken has been effective

√□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

This assessment is based on historical observation on the works implemented nationally – a process is now being discussed regarding the access to local traditional knowledge and the utilising of biodiversity genetic resources. The process involves a Free Prior Informed Consent to be acquired from communities to access, collect, and conduct research in local communities. Even though a policy framework is not yet finalised, at least a national transparent process is being discussed and being finalised for accessing local and traditional knowledge and biodiversity genetic resources.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Whilst the administrative processes is progressing well for ABS, Fiji would need to invest in laboratories/equipment to be able to carry out genetic level research. This will require techanical and financial resources.

Strategic Area EEM3:

Improve involvement of the iTaukei institutions such as Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, iTaukei Lands Trust Board, and Provincial Offices in implementation of NBSAPs

Objective EEM3:

Ensure biodiversity value of traditionally owned land is enhanced.

Actions

EEM3.1 Work with provincial offices to incorporate relevant NBSAP components into provincial development plan.

EEM3.2 Liaise with community to understand government policies, legislation, strategies and protocols.

EEM3.3 Develop protocols with TLTB to ensure biodiversity value of leased lands are maintained

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP In Fiji, recognition of biodiversity value of traditionally owned land is enhanced; this is witnessed through the various activities implemented in the major provinces of Fiji. Cakaudrove province celebrated Cakaudrove Day in 2019, after a lapse of 26 years focussing on revival of traditional knowledge, handicraft etc.

Additionally in the provinces of Macuata, Bua and Ra, Yaubula (environment) festivals are an annual event. The festival incorporates the display of traditional crafts and knowledge. Through the various YMST committees, funds are raised through these mediums and bank accounts opened to facilitate savings for the committees for conservation activities.

The Ministry of Youth Northern division is involved in capacity building programmes on business planning, financial literacy and skills training to youth from the three provinces of Cakaudrove, Bua and Macuata.

Ministry of Forestry and Conservation Officers from the provincial offices are working with youths implementing reforestation programs. Most of the youth groups from the provinces are required to register their youth groups. Upon registration, youth groups are then assisted, for instance with some of their projects – e.g. Vaturova youth - 100 youth members, planted 1000 pine seedlings, 400 yasi and 300 vesi.

Protocols to ensure biodiversity value of leased land is maintained as an ongoing assessment with the Itaukei Lands Trust Board (TLTB), as part of TLTB land use plans.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

□ Measures taken has been effective

√□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown

Based on observation and anecdotes reporting from the media and expert opinion – measures implemented to achieve this objective are partially effective. Provincial councils are driving biodiversity conservation initiatives in their provinces. With recruitment of Conservation Officers in the 14 provinces, and through the various community awareness conducted in the provinces on biodiversity values, resources owners and citizens are coming out more vocally on the type of development in their provinces ensuring sustainability of natural resources, with a conscious to conserving biodiversity. As opposed to the traditional development approach of negating environmental and biodiversity implications, landowners have now included environmental and biodiversity issues to be considered in the development equation.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.
Techanical and financial resources would be required.

Reference:

1. Cakaudrove Provincial Office
2. Macuata Provincial Office, YMST
3. Department of Information (footage)
4. FBC (news items)
5. Ministry of Youth Training reports

Strategic Area EEM4:
Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into biodiversity conservation.

Objective EEM4:
Ensure Climate Change adaptation is mainstreamed into biodiversity conservation

Actions.

EEM4.1 Integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation strategies and actions into NBSAP focal areas.

EEM4.2 Include vulnerability assessments and climate change impact projections into resource management planning, such as integrated coastal, watershed, land-use, forest and marine management plans.

EEM4.3 Incorporate climate change impact projections into biodiversity conservation plans

EEM4.4 Implement best practice adaptation measures, based on sound scientific research, and lessons learnt from local, regional and international experiences.

EEM4.5 Research to identify effective adaptation measures to support biodiversity and natural resource sectors such as fisheries, forest and land-specific adaptation and disaster risk reduction responses.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP
Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into biodiversity conservation is one of the top priority of the Ministry of Environment as one of the key drivers of biodiversity loss is climate change. Some activities that have been undertaken successfully integrating Climate Change and Biodiversity include;

- C3 Fiji - building climate resilience of fishermen in Macuata province
- Mangrove re-establishment PGRM in eight communities
- Establishment of Mangrove and Seagrass Nurseries by the Ministry of Environment
- Establishment of Vetiver Grass Nursery by the Ministry of Waterways and the Ministry of Environment

- Nature-based solutions – Eco – engineered seawalls and riverbank protection by the Ministry of Waterways and Ministry of Environment
- Climate Change awareness program and training in the various provinces
- Business and financial literacy training for local communities to prepare for alternative livelihood training programs
- Capacity building on different livelihood programs (communities chose their preferred program) with women and youths in target provinces
- Climate Change awareness in 10 rural schools in Macuata province
- Collection of traditional knowledge - artifacts, handicraft and delicacies
- The distribution of the Fiji frogs, Platymantis spp.: New records and ramifications
- Conservation and Management of the Endangered Fiji Sago Palm, Metroxylon vitiense, in Fiji
- Community engagements with the Hon. Minister and the Permanent Secretary of Environment in the Western and Northern Divisions.

Many CSOs are working on the ground to mainstream climate change in their conservation programmes and initiatives. The NBSAP 2020 -2025 has explicitly made reference to Climate Change in the document.

The Ministry of Environment through its various programs will continue to mainstream/integrate climate change into the biodiversity conservation agenda at the national level. This can already be seen reflected in the Ministry's Policy on Coral Reef and associated Habitats that was launched by the Hon. Minister this year and the NBSAP.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

□ Measures taken has been effective

√ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown

Please explain the selection and where possible indicate tools or methodology used for the assessment

Climate Change as one of the key drivers for biodiversity loss needs to be integrated and addressed not only at global, but also at the national level and community local level. The Ministry of Environment and NGO partners will continue to engage in this area with scientists, line Government Agencies and academic institutions to ensure that this objective is progressed quickly and scientific data/information is available to make informed decisions.

Focal Area 6: Sustainable Use And Development (SUD)

NATIONAL TARGET

The NBSAP strategies and action plans are fully incorporated into 5 & 20 Year's National Development Plan, the Green Growth Framework and other sectoral plans (e.g. Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Tourism, etc.).

INDICATORS

- Decline and extinction of utilised species including traded species are eliminated or significantly reduced

- Degree to which biodiversity and ecosystem service values are incorporated into organisational accounting reporting
- Extinction risk trends of habitat-dependent species is halted or reversed
- Population of habitat dependent species are maintained at healthy levels

Rationale

The sustainable development focal area is the widest coverage of meeting Fiji's national biodiversity targets as this is where a lot of the direct threats to biodiversity are addressed, such as unsustainable coastal development, forest conversion, addressing threats to inland waters and inshore fisheries. These have direct links to Fiji's NBSAP Implementation Framework thematic areas such as: Coastal Development, Inland waters, Inshore Fisheries and Forest Conversion. It also addresses increasing the engagement and participation of all sector of society and Fijian Communities including iTaukei institutions and communities.

Strategic Area SUD1: Mainstreaming biodiversity into production and service sectors

Objective SUD1: Integrating biodiversity conservation and sustainable use and management into the production, manufacturing, agriculture, fisheries, forestry, tourism, mining, and land-use and transport industries.

Actions:

SUD1.1 Most sectorial plans have recognised the value of conserving biodiversity and so have integrated aspects of biodiversity conservation. Tourism, Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry.
SUD 1.2 Explore ways to ensure regulations reflect or contribute to biodiversity objectives
SUD 1.3 Ensure industry standards, codes of conduct, guidelines and good practices support biodiversity conservation.
SUD 1.4 Develop pilot projects to showcase clean industries.
SUD 1.5 Carry out awareness programmes on sustainable production and consumption.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

Fiji is progressing well in this as all sectoral plans go through a thorough consultation process and inputs on the value of conserving biodiversity are solicited from the Ministry of Environment, local conservation groups, NGOs.

Fiji has in place a National Development Plan and Green Growth Framework. The two documents have recognised the value of conserving biodiversity and this has cascaded down into various sectors, where the sectors have developed sectoral plans aligned to the two national documents.

The Environment Management Act 2005 regulates all types of development to ensure biodiversity objectives are incorporated.

Some of the latest national strategies which the NBSAP have provided input and vice-versa are:

- Fiji Low Emission Development Strategy 2018-2050
- Fiji National Adaption Plan Framework - 2017
- Green Growth Framework for Fiji – 2014
- Fiji REDD-Plus Policy - 2011
- Natural Resource Inventory Reports of the Republic of Fiji – 2010
- Draft Natural Resource Inventory - Ministry of Environment 2020
- Draft State of Environment Report - Ministry of Environment 2020

Fiji places a strong emphasis on the integration of the NBSAP objectives into our existing climate change strategies and commitments, as climate change is one of the main drivers of biodiversity loss and greatly impacts on livelihoods.

Fiji has sound codes of conduct to ensure good practices are adhered to in a lot of extractive sectors and the EIA process ensures that best practices are followed. Strict approval conditions are issued by the Ministry of Environment.

Fiji has also developed and implemented the national building code to guide construction companies. Additionally, the forestry code/guidelines have been developed to ensure good practices and conservation adopting international standards including certification from the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC).

Below are some initiatives piloting clean energy and sustainable industries:

- Construction of the Solar college at Wainikoro - 3.8 million commitment by the Govt and India (sent women to India in 2014, 2018 from Nadogo) to learn about solar and teach it at local level) - Department for Women (North Office)
- Ministry of Agriculture is working with Korotari, Dreketi establishing vegetable farming, nurseries for seedlings. Additionally, the farm support includes, planting of 1/4 acre of land and provision of planting materials to extend their farming. Mechanisation of the rice industry.
- Leleuvia Island Resort has banned the usage of Ocean-Toxic Sunscreen on the island resort.
- There are rehabilitation programmes driven by Women and Youth throughout Fiji. In the province of Macuata, Youth & Women and programmes involve the youth in planting of Vetiver grass to reduce soil erosion and land degradation which a part of the Ministry of Environment Ridge to Reef program. In Vunivutu, in the district of Nadogo – a programme spearheaded by villagers called - “tabu na musu kau” the initiative placed a taboo on cutting down trees.
- The women of the district have commenced rehabilitation of their “Kuta” (freshwater reed) ponds. As part of this initiative livestock not allowed to access “Kuta” ponds.
- Macuata Youth & Women have engaged in a program to plant vetiver grass to reduce soil erosion and land degradation (through the Fiji R2R program). In the village of Vunivutu (Tikina Nadogo) there is a ban on tree harvesting.

  Women of this province had raised concerns of pollution in waterways (women washing in the rivers, sometimes leave clothes in the water that are washed out to sea), and had recommended waste management (different rubbish bins for different types of rubbish), diaper disposal - for any diaper disposed of anyhow, they fine each mother 50cents. On Kuta pond rehabilitation - they do not allow livestock to have access to the kuta ponds.
- Cakaudrove Women:
  The Cakaudrove Women's organisation was registered as an NGO, with an executive committee with representatives from each of the 15 districts. The strategic plan, approved last year; has addresses biodiversity through priority 3 - addressing climate change, deforestation and protection.
- The Ministry of Agriculture in the northern division has a specific focus on soil conservation - helping farmers with correct ways of farming.
- Fiji Pacific Ecosystem-based adaptation to climate change project (PEBACC) by SPREP 2014-2019 provided Ecosystem-based adaptation options for adapting to climate change. Their model farms in Taveuni are examples for sustainable production.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown

As presented Fiji has been effective at national and local level in achieving the objective

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.
At the national level, there are mechanisms in place and Fiji is continually reviewing to improve. At the community level, the main challenge is capacity, awareness-raising and providing funding for local actions.

Strategic Area SUD2: Mainstreaming biodiversity into national sustainable development and poverty reduction strategies.
Objective SUD2: Integrate biodiversity-relevant issues into Fiji's National Development Plan, Green Growth Framework and poverty reduction strategies.

Actions:
SUD2.1 Incorporate biodiversity protection and wise use into Fiji's National Development Plan.
SUD2.2 Implement biodiversity strategies and actions under the National Green Growth Framework.
SUD2.3 Incorporate biodiversity protection and wise use into Fiji's strategies on poverty, particularly poverty reduction and sustainable livelihoods.

Fiji's NBSAP is well integrated into the Fiji National Development Plan – Transforming Fiji (2017 - 2036) and linked under the Protection Culture, Heritage and Natural Environment with the strategic goal that *Our pristine natural environment will be protected, and the economy will be made more climate-resilient*.

Fiji has developed *A Green Growth Framework for Fiji: Restoring the Balance in Development that is Sustainable for Our Future* in 2014. The framework is redirecting Fiji's current development path to changing consumption and production patterns of its people which have been exacerbated by world events such as the global economic crises, increases in food and fuel prices and the impacts of climate change. It strives to achieve the balance between the three pillars of sustainable development; namely economic, social and environmental.
It is now not an option but an imperative to put in place a process which, over time, will ensure the balance is restored and that future development is both sustainable and can be sustained...and with Fiji remaining a largely pristine island country.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective
□ Measures taken has been effective
√Measures taken been partially effective
□ Measures taken been ineffective
□ Unknown□

Fiji is still on its path to meet the goals of these frameworks.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.
As a developing country, balancing economic growth and sustaining our pristine environment is important. The Ministry of Environment through the Environment Management Act 2005 ensures sustainable development and utilization of natural resources. Financial resources would assist in monitoing work.

Strategic Area SUD3: Reducing major threats to forest and freshwater ecosystems such as unsustainable logging, agriculture, fisheries, mining and human settlements.

Objective SUD3: Improve coordination of Government policies, legislations and management guidelines to ensure protection of Fiji's forest and water-catchment ecosystems.

Actions

SUD3.1 Strengthen cross-sectorial forums to facilitate forest ecosystem conservation work such as the green growth thematic group, and strengthen information dissemination.

SUD3.2 Integrate response to climate change such as REDD++, building resilience e.g. community forest protected areas and biodiversity conservation into planning and review process of Government policies and plans.

SUD3.3 Capture best practice and lessons learned to improve management of forest ecosystems and manage logging activities through EIA process under EMA 2005.

SUD3.4 Support the National Forest Policy and the prohibition on the harvesting of forest where average slopes exceed 25 degrees over a distance of 100 metres or more (FFHCOP, Section 11).

SUD3.5 Avoid clear-cutting and land-use changes through designating protected areas or restrictions on use to decrease emissions from deforestation by 20%.

SUD3.6 Reduce impact of logging through training of woodcutters, machine operators and logging planners in the field of resource-saving and (felling and skidding) techniques and by providing advanced skidding equipment to reduce emission from logging in natural forest by 10%.

SUD3.7 To increase survival rates after planting and enhance site productivity to increase timber production, higher numbers of seedlings should be planted during plantation establishment and thinning should be applied for stand maintenance to increase productivity in forest plantations by 20%.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

There are few cross-sectoral forums established by the National Environment Council (under the Environment Management Act 2005) such as the Protected Areas Committee, Wetlands Committee, Terrestrial Working Group that works on NBSAP implementation and provides for the cross-sectoral information sharing and partnerships.

Fiji REDD+ programme addresses the effects of climate change through preservation, conservation and sustainable management of forests. Fiji has secured the World Bank Fiji Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) Readiness Project which will be completed end of 2021. This will contribute to Fiji's Emissions Reduction (ER) Programme implementation. It targets removal of approximately 2 million tonnes of CO2 and commits 90% of Fiji's landmass in 20 districts of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu.

The Ministry of Forestry's concept of Permanent Forest Estates (PFE) within the Fiji Forest Policy (2007)will ensure the protection and development of forest benefits Fiji. The 3 categories include multiple-use forest, conservation areas and forest plantations. Activities include Forest Appreciation Programmes and Land-use planning with forest functions.

In 2020 Fiji launched a 30 million trees in 15 years campaign as part of reforestation and addressing climate change and plans are developed for each of the divisions in Fiji. In 2019, Fiji collectively planted 1 million trees in 10 months which was initially a target of 4 million trees in 4 years which has now increased to 30 million trees in 15 years which was announced by Fiji's Prime Minister at the 2019 Nations Climate Action Summit in New York.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√ ***Measures taken have been effective***

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown

The approach taken has been effective based on the results produced such as the tree planting targets, awareness and capacity building.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.
Limited financial resources.

Reference:

Strategic Area SUD4: Reducing major threats to inland waters (watershed, streams, rivers and lakes) such as dredging, floods, gravel extraction, mining, agriculture, deforestation, tourism, sugar, manufacturing, waste management.

Objective SUD4: Establish locally managed areas, protected areas and/or Ramsar sites, at priority catchments, wetlands and key biodiversity areas and strengthen EIAs for all forms of development activity in inland waters.

Actions.

SUD4.1 Improve and update information on the status of inland waters and their biodiversity.

SUD4.2 Conduct gap analysis to identify gaps in the protection and management of inland waters and services and implement strategies and action plans to address those gaps.

SUD4.3 Integrate inland waters strategic areas into national frameworks such as national land-use plans, integrated coastal management plans, agriculture sector plans and other development sector plans.

SUD4.4 Conduct valuation of wetland services so that they are properly accounted for in decision making.

SUD4.5 Improve public awareness of the threats to wetland species and ecosystems and options for management.

SUD4.6 Promote Sustainable water management where river basins, aquifers, flood plains and their associated vegetation provide water storage and flood regulation.

SUD4.7 Strengthen disaster risk reduction through restoration of coastal habitats such as protection of existing mangroves areas, or the flood mitigation services provided by wetlands, can be a particularly effective measure against storm surges, coastal erosion and flood risk.

SUD4.8 Establish diverse agricultural systems, where using indigenous knowledge of specific crop and livestock varieties, maintaining genetic diversity of crops and livestock, and conserving diverse agricultural landscapes secure food provision in changing local climatic conditions

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

The National Protected Areas Committee's map on Existing and Proposed Terrestrial Protected Areas for Fiji has been endorsed by the National Environment Council; and the NPAC contributes to Terms of References for proposed developed within and around Fiji's KBAs (http://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/site/mapsearch) and IBAs (http://datazone.birdlife.org/country/fiji/ibas).

Fiji has established a National Wetlands Steering Committee (NWSC) to advise the National Environment Council on issues relating to Wetlands. Housed within the NWSC is the Ramsar Working Group to oversee the continued management and development of Ramsar Wetland Sites of International Significance. In this reporting period, Fiji produced a management plan for the Upper Navua Conservation Area (Fiji's first Ramsar site) and declared a new Ramsar site on the island of Vanua Levu – the Qoliqoli Cokovata, which is part of the Great Sea Reef – the 3rd longest reef system in the Southern Hemisphere.

Fiji's national wetlands directory will be updated in 2020/2021 fiscal year. The Ministry of Environment has allocated funding for this task. The Fiji Ridge to Reef project addresses biodiversity at catchment level and focuses on six catchments in Fiji. By the end of the project, catchment level biodiversity data, resource management plans, community awareness and engagement should greatly advance catchment management in Fiji.

The SPREP PEBAAC project implemented in Taveuni in collaboration with Government agencies saw the establishment of Catchment Coordinators who were trained to organise and manage activities for their respective catchments. Lessons captured from the two above projects might inform how Fiji can better address locally managed areas, protected areas and/or Ramsar sites, at priority catchments, wetlands and key biodiversity areas

The Ministry of Waterways drainage programme includes addressing low lying areas facing extensive waterlogging problems during the wet season every year due to the poor, inadequate and unplanned drainage networks and improper spatial planning. This program is aimed at supporting the communities facing waterlogging problems through a strategic long-term program to minimize waterlogging and its potential impacts on livelihoods in Fiji through provision of adequate drainage and de-silting of existing drains in such areas.

The Ministry of Waterways and the Ministry of Environment are supporting communities facing coastal erosion problems through a strategic long-term program that protects livelihood through appropriate coastal protection infrastructure through nature-based solutions. It includes shore protection, coastal protection, and sea defence activities to address coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion and mitigate impacts of storm surges and coastal inundation in such areas. The investments in the coastal protection program comprise of implementing structural and non-structural such as nature-based adaptation such as riverbank stabilisation and restoration through planting of mangroves, vetiver grass or Vetiver Technology measures for rural communities.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Equipment and resources required.

Strategic Area SUD5: Reduce major threats to Fiji's coastal ecosystems such as reclamation, unsustainable tourism development, river dredging and pollution.

Objective SUD5: Improve coordination of national policies, legislations and management guidelines to ensure protection of Fiji's coastal and marine ecosystems.

Actions.

SUD5.1 Strengthen cross-sectorial forums that facilitate integrated coastal management (ICM) and inshore fisheries plans and guidelines.

SUD5.2 Develop and promote partnership between government and stakeholders towards Sustainable tourism, infrastructure, agriculture, forestry, mining and fisheries.

SUD5.3 Finalise, gazette and implement the national mangrove management plan.

SUD5.4 Seabed mining: Understanding the impact and interconnected food web, review the mining Act to capture seabed mining, strengthen EIA process and monitoring, ensure clear EEZ boundaries, establish Offshore-International water partnerships, document deep sea mining threats.

Ensure EIAs are carried out for exploration and develop exploration and environment management plans.

SUD5.5 Monitor and evaluate the impacts of coastal developments at different scales/levels or From different industries in Fiji.

SUD 5.6 Carry out carbon sequestration studies for the seagrass meadows in Fiji

SUD 5.7 Replicate above-ground and below-ground biomass studies for mangroves and soil carbon content and all major locales nationally.

SUD 5.8 Develop a Blue Carbon Policy and Action Plan for Fiji

SUD 5.9 Establish a database for all management activities in mangroves and seagrass beds

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP

Fiji has an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Framework which promotes ICM Plans to be established at provincial level. There is an ICM Committee established at National level and provincial ICM Plans and committees established at provincial level such as Ra, Bua, Kadavu, Lomaiviti and Macuata.

In 2013, a draft National Mangrove Management Plan (MMP) was prepared for the National Mangrove Management Committee (MMC) funded through MESCAL Fiji Project. The purpose of the document was to act as a tool to administer, manage, facilitate and control development and management of mangroves within Fiji. The MMC is currently reviewing the draft MMP as a guide to develop a mangrove policy framework for Fiji. As of 2020 the MMC have been moved to the Ministry of Environment from the Ministry of Lands.

Fiji has joined South American countries and other American States for the Pacific Rim Ocean-Climate Action Partnership which resolves to drive ambitious emissions reductions, maximize ocean-related mitigation measures and build ocean and coastal resilience as well as community and economic resilience. This initiative promotes Fiji's existing commitments such as the commitment to achieving 100% management of EEZ's and 30% marine protected area coverage by 2030, and commitments to decarbonize marine shipping by 2050.

The Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS) of The University of the South Pacific (USP) was awarded a blue carbon habitat restoration contract to pilot the use of Blue Carbon in local mitigation of Ocean Acidification (OA).

The project aims to monitor OA and assess the local mitigation of OA through mangrove restoration. It seeks to plant 1 hectare of mangroves over two (2) years that will store a projected 116 tons of carbon over twenty (20) years.

Reference:

https://www.usp.ac.fj/news/story.php?id=2972

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Limited technical and financial resources.

Strategic Area SUD6: Strengthen ecosystem-based approaches to coastal fisheries management to reduce overharvesting and destructive fishing methods to maintain and improve coastal and coral reef ecosystems.

Objective 6a: Scale-up successes in sustainable fisheries management in inshore traditional fishing grounds (iQoliqoli) using a range of traditional and modern fisheries management tools and put in place supportive enabling mechanisms.

Action

SUD6.1 Support the development of inshore fisheries management plans at national, provincial and inshore traditional fishing ground levels.

SUD6.2 Promote tools such as the 'Community-Based Adaptive Management' (CBAM) in developing management plans and managing locally managed marine areas within inshore traditional fishing grounds in Fiji.

SUD6.3 Utilise a range of traditional and modern fisheries management tools such as locally managed marine areas, tabu areas, gear restrictions, species prohibitions, size limits and seasonal closures, to ensure the sustainability of specific fisheries.

SUD6.4 Coordinate with the Ministry of Fisheries to improve access for food security among the local community while supporting sustainable fishing practices adopted at the community level.

SUD6.5 Capture traditional knowledge and strengthen science and research in inshore fisheries to support management objectives.

SUD6.6 Support Capacity building at the community level to ensure adequate monitoring and maintenance of database (e.g fisheries export, licences) to support fisheries management decision and adaptive management.

SUD6.7 Support the effective establishment of provincial and district level environment committees or Environment (Yaubula) Committees to support inshore fisheries management at the provincial level.

SUD6.8 Implement a communication strategy to improve compliance of national-scale fisheries laws and regulations.

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP Inshore fisheries management plans are integrated into Provincial Integrated Coastal Management Plans (ICM), and Yabula (Environment) Plans enabled a holistic approach to planning where management strategies and plans from the ridge to the reef including inshore traditional grounds. Fiji has been highlighted globally as a global leader in developing community-based adaptive management through the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas (FLMMA) Network.

Community natural resource management are supported by NGOs and government through national networks such as FLMMA. There is a close partnership between government and NGOs and academic institutions refining these tools. Ministry of Fisheries in partnership with NGOs are working well and supporting the 14 provinces through empowering local communities. Government is also reviewing licensing to support long-term sustainability through establishing trust funds for local communities.

One on the major achievement for Fiji is the establishment of natural resource management committees or *Yaubula Management Support Team (YMST)* at provincial, district and village level. These are supported by the 14 Conservation Officers around the 14 provinces in Fiji who are based within the Ministry of Itaukei Affairs. Below is a list of YMST established in Fiji (source: FLMMA).

- Establish and strengthen Provincial YMST – 2018 (Rewa) with Rewa Provincial Office with support from GEF-SGP and Pacific Blue Foundation (PBF).
- Beqa Island YMST (2018-2019) with Rewa Provincial Office, Rewa YMST, Pacific Blue Foundation.
- Naitasiri YMST established (2017) with Naitasiri Provincial Office as well as funding support from the GEF-SGP.

- Lau YMST strengthened with support from CI, Lau Provincial Office. (2017-2019)
- Cakaudrove YMST (2019) – strengthen and revitalise the YMST at the Provincial Level with support from the Cakaudrove Provincial Office and WCS and cChange.
- Nadroga/Navosa YMST Provincial Level – support and provide technical advice. (2017-2019)
- Provide technical advice to District YMSTs as well as Yaubula Committees across the 14 Provinces.

This work is supported by FLMMA with support of Provincial Offices and relevant key Partners (Rewa, Tailevu, Naitasiri, Lau, Cakaudrove, Nadroga/Navosa) and the Ministry of Itaukei Affairs (MITA) through the Conservation Unit and the Conservation Officers support work on YMST establishment.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√*Measures taken have been effective*

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown□

Fiji is progressing well in this area.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

Limited resources.

Reference:

Objective 6b: Improve coordination and partnership of Government and NGOs, academic institutions, local government, communities and fisheries sectors to support policies and legislation to ensure protection of Fiji's coastal fisheries and ecosystems.

Actions.

SUD6.9 Strengthen and better utilise networks such as the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas Network and Women in Fisheries Network-Fiji to support sustainable management of inshore Fisheries in Fiji.

SUD6.10 Establish and support information hubs at all levels to ensure policies, legislations and best management approaches are disseminated to all levels (e.g. province, district, village).

SUD6.11 Establishment of sustainable financing mechanisms at national and other appropriate levels to provide long-term support to sustainable fisheries management in Fiji.

SUD6.12 Increase collaboration between Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Fisheries, law enforcement agencies and the judiciary system to address illegal, unregulated and unreported fisheries and enforce fisheries laws, regulations and policies. The Department of Environment to enforce the Environment Management Act 2005 to ensure all-natural resources (land and sea-based) are protected and managed)

Description of Measures and Actions taken to progress Fiji's NBSAP Fiji has established formal and informal management systems to better manage the fisheries sector and ecosystems. In terms of fisheries management FLMMA, Ministry of Fisheries and the Ministry of Itaukei Affairs have forged a partnership both at national and community level to support the management of our inshore areas and sustainable fisheries.

At national level the Ministry of Environment convenes NBSAP Thematic Areas such as Inshore Fisheries to specifically provide advice and monitoring of their relevant NBSAP actions. FLMMA chairs this national thematic area on Inshore Fisheries with the Ministry of Fisheries.

Assessment of Effectiveness of the implementation measures taken in achieving objective

√Measures taken have been effective

□ Measures taken been partially effective

□ Measures taken been ineffective

□ Unknown

The objective is progressing well at both levels.

Obstacles and technical needs related to measure take.

The obstacles can range from capacity at different levels, technology could be introduced and more resources are needed to maintain the management at the community level and support networks such as FLMMA.

National Highlights Of Achievements - Case Studies And Other References

As part of the 6th National Report to CBD, a short video to highlight lessons learned was produced. The case studies are listed below:

FOCAL AREA 1: IMPROVING OUR KNOWLEDGE (IK)

NATIONAL TARGET:

Fijians are aware of values of biodiversity and traditional knowledge and practice are integrated with the latest scientific knowledge into sustainable biodiversity conservation practices.

Case Study: 4FJ Campaign - The 4FJ campaign (short for Fiji) is designed to reduce the harvest of Grouper, commonly known locally by names such as kawakawa and donu. It aims to help people understand why the increasing loss of a prized food fish is critical to the people of Fiji, and then help individuals and communities do something, to protect them and ultimately, our way of life**.** The campaign was launched in 2014 to reduce fishing pressure on rapidly declining grouper fisheries in Fiji. kawakawa and donu are highly targeted A-grade fish that support the livelihoods and food needs for communities nationwide and are culturally important to all Fijians.

The campaign was led by C-Change in partnership with the Ministry of Fisheries, NGOs and Scientists to catalyse support for improved management of groupers. The approach undertaken was simple and that is: Ask people to take action right here, right now, to help revive these dwindling resource and they get involved by taking a pledge, spread the word, share your story and become a volunteer. People all over Fiji started making personal and group pledges with champions such as the famous 7s rugby player Serevi. The Ministry of Fisheries supported the campaign and gazetted a government ban of harvesting of groupers from June to September during their spawning season since 2018. The latest count of personal pledges is 25,000 and growing. Reference https://4fjmovement.org/why-4fj-matters

Case Study: Learn from Scientists - In 2008, when Fiji's local, membership-based organisation, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, launched Fiji's first endangered species compendium, it realised that there was a general lack appreciation for Fiji's unique biodiversity, and there were no programs at local or national level to engage Fiji's children Fiji's wildlife and wild spaces. There was a need to build local ownership of Fiji's documented biodiversity crisis. To address this issue, the organisation, after much trial and error developed a program called "Learn from the Scientists" which engaged Fiji's known and internationally recognised taxonomists to socialise taxonomy to NatureFiji-MareqetiViti's club members.

Since 2012, local scientists and visiting scientists have given their time to share their "passion" with children and their parents, visiting some of Fiji's unique landscapes and learning more about Fiji's freshwater macroinvertebrates, bats, moths, endemic frogs, coastal/ small island ecosystems, snakes, mangrove creatures, migratory shorebirds, sago palms and Fiji's incredible Nanai cicada. The Learn from the Scientists series of events became so popular that schools and corporate bodies became engaged and specific tailor-made activities were designed for them. Some of these have resulted in corporate sponsorships for species conservation.

FOCUS AREA 2: DEVELOPING PROTECTED AREAS

NATIONAL TARGET

Terrestrial Protected Area Target:

Areas of high biological importance have been identified by the Ministry of Environment and endorsed by NEC.

Case- Study: **Fiji Ridge to Reef (R2R) Project Navakuru Terrestrial Protected Areas** – The project is implemented by the Ministry of Environment and aims to preserve biodiversity, ecosystem services, sequester carbon, improve climate resilience and sustain livelihoods through a ridge to reef management of priority water catchments on the two main islands of Fiji. The selected priority catchments are Ba River, Tuva River and Waidina River/Rewa Delta on Viti Levu and Labasa River, Vunivia River and Tunuloa district on Vanua Levu. The **Navakuru is a Terrestrial Protected Area** is under the Ridge to Reef Project. It is a partnership between the Landowners, the R2R Project and the Department of Forestry in re-afforestation program. The project focus on improving the health of the Labasa and Qawa rivers through rehabilitation efforts such as tree replanting on degraded land areas and river buffers to maintain key ecosystem functions of the Labasa river that includes the provision of clean and safe quality drinking water, food and economic livelihood activities such as agriculture.

Case-Study: Waisali Forest Reserve - Waisali Reserve is a 120ha reserve on the windward side of Vanua Levu, Fiji The traditional landowners are the people of the Waisali Mataqali, Waisali Village, Cakaudrove Province, Vanua Levu however, since a lease agreement signed in 1996, the legal custodian of the area is the National Trust of Fiji.

Reachable on foot or via a 15-minute drive, it's home to a varied range of exotic birds, flowers (30 species of orchids), trees and plants, some of which are used in local medicines. It has waterfalls, natural pools and terrific views of the forest and Savusavu Bay. Guided walks are also available. One of Fiji's most diverse rain forests and is rich in bird species, and exquisite trees, flowers, and plants, including those used in traditional medicines. It contains a population of the endangered Fiji ground frog (*platymantis vitianus*), which was once thought to have become extinct. The reserve is a catchment surrounded by steep slopes to the north and east near the summit ridge of the main Vanua Levu mountain range at elevations ranging from 350-650m above sea level. Rainfall in the area is between 3000-5000mm per annum. The small creeks and tributaries in the reserve join to form the Savuqoro stream which is the mainstream flowing through the reserve. The Savuqoro stream then joins the Waisali River. The forest system within the area is typical of a low-mid elevation tropical rainforest. Most forest in the reserve is intact and undisturbed.

Reference:
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/237697978_Importance_of_Waisali_Reserve_Vanua_Levu_for_herpetofauna_conservation_in_Fiji .

Marine PA Target:

(a) Areas of high biological importance have identified by Ministry of Environment and endorsed by NEC. At least 30% of Fiji's offshore areas are effectively managed and part of a national marine protected areas network and;

Case-Study: Great Sea Reef - Great Sea Reef (GSR), the third-longest barrier reef system in the southern hemisphere and stretches from Udu Point on Vanua Levu to the Coral Coast on Viti Levu. The GSR supports a unique and vast system of coral reefs, intertidal areas and coastal wetlands that in turn feeds up to 80 per cent of Fiji's population and contributes between FJ$16-18 million annually to Fiji's economy through the inshore Fisheries sector. The Fiji Government recognizing the value and importance of this reef system designated a section of the GSR in Macuata as its second national wetland site of significance under the RAMSAR Convention, which was duly endorsed and declared in January 2018. The Ministry of Environment and WWF are working on developing Management Plans for this site.

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Mali Island Marine Protected Area – Is part of the Great Sea Reef locally known as *Cakaulevu* or *Qoliqoli Cokovata, Macuata* which is classed as one of the longest reef systems in the world and a globally significant sites because of its rich marine biodiversity. Also part of the Great Sea Reef is the ***Qaranivai Marine Protected Area*** - A well established and is a vital resource for the coastal communities within the Macuata Province. Previous studies have indicated that the marine resources are declining; fish sizes are not controlled by our local communities since their livelihood is a priority.

Reference:

https://www.wwfpacific.org/?uNewsID=343010

Case-Study: Management of Lau Seascape – Conservation International in partnership with FLMMA are implementing a ridge to reef to ocean approach to conservation that takes, economic, environmental and societal factors into account. Lau Seascape is the next frontier to marine exploration and management. The vision is to be prosperous and grounded in values of respect and collaborative participation to achieve sustainable regenerative resources by 2040 for current and future generations and to overcome challenges with the guidance of the Almighty God. A Lau seascape strategy has been developed for 2018 – 2090. This seascape contains some of large marine spaces that include inshore and offshore SUMAs and candidate sites to achieve Fiji' 30% MPA target.

(b) By 2025, 100% of inshore traditional fishing grounds (*iQoliqoli*) are effectively managed within locally managed areas.

Case Study: Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas Network - Fiji has been uniquely placed as pioneer of the Locally Managed Marine Areas (LMMA) and innovatively scale up to provincial networks through the collaborative effort of local NGOs and Government partners which formed the Fiji Locally Managed Marine Areas Network (FLMMA). LMMA approach integrates concerns about the current state of degradation and ensures that ecological services of these resource systems are sustainably managed in the future by community-driven efforts; with aspects of food security, resource conservation, local employment and income of local fishers and tourism operators embedded.

The FLMMA Network is a local initiative recognised by Government and is a network consisting of communities, islands and provincial sub-networks referred to as Yaubula Management Support Teams (YMST) (e.g Kadavu YMAST, Lau YMST). The vision is *fish for the future* and uses the approach Community Based Adaptive Management (CBAM), which allows communities to decide how they want to manage their resources based on their local knowledge and adapting their management through actively monitoring their actions and reinforce successful results. With over 20 years of experience, FLMMA Network has collectively supported 466 marine reserves or tabu areas in more than 135 customary fishing grounds or Qoliqoli areas covering 79% of Fiji's inshore areas. The network has worked to help bring back traditional management practices, blending science and traditional knowledge. The network is also launched their programme looking into the future which they are calling the *100% solution* targeting to scale up their work to reach this ambitious 100% target by 2030.

<u>Focus Area 3: Species Management (SM)</u>

NATIONAL TARGET

By 2025, at least 10 known threatened plant and animal species have been protected and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained

Case-Study: The Nakanacagi Bat Sanctuary - is the first for Fiji! This sanctuary secures a cave housing the world's only known maternity roost of the endangered Fiji Free-tailed Bat. The cave was purchased by the National Trust of Fiji and will be maintained as a sanctuary.

Case-Study Monuriki Island Iguana Sanctuary and captive breeding - saw the first-ever reintroduction of captive-bred iguanas (at Kula Eco Park) into their original habitat (Monuriki) after goat and predator (rat) removal from the island. This was led by the National Trust of Fiji through the Rain Forest Trust Fund and will be maintained as a sanctuary in collaboration with the communities that live around the cave in collaboration with the people of Yanuya, Birdlife International, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, Taronga Zoo, San Diego Zoo, USGS and the Fiji government.

Case Study: Sago Palm Restoration Private Sector partnership - The Fiji Sago Palm is endemic, widely used within Fiji's Hotel industry for thatch to give the buildings an aesthetic Fijian look. A wetland species that is now listed as endangered on the IUCN RedList because of habitat loss and overconsumption through the destructive Heart of Palm trade, the species recovery plan allowed for the plight of the species to be socialised outside of the traditional users (harvesters, landowners and regulators). Since 2012, the ANZ Bank Pacific Foundation Staff has annually sponsored and conducted activities to contribute towards the recovery of this species through seed collection from wild populations, seed propagation and planting at a previously degraded Sago palm forest in the village of Culanuku. Total (Fiji) joined with an FJD 25,000 donation to support the program in 2015. By engaging these corporate bodies and their staff and families from 2015 to 2020, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti, the Serua Provincial Office, National Trust of Fiji and the Fiji Ministry of Forestry have been able to continue to address the plight of the Fiji sago palm despite the lack of traditional project donors to support the species recovery plan since 2015.

FOCAL AREA 4: MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES (MIS)

NATIONAL TARGET

Fiji's invasive alien species (IAS), pathways, risks and threats to biodiversity and livelihoods are identified; priority IAS are controlled or eradicated, and by 2023 measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

Case Study: Eradication of Giant Invasive Iguana (GII) in Fiji - A native to South and Central America, the giant invasive iguana was believed to have been smuggled on to Qamea Island, east of Taveuni in 2000. To date, the estimated population has grown to an estimated population of at least 2500 individuals. The giant iguana is potentially a serious pest of village gardens and farms. They are generally herbivores and if the numbers are left unchecked, food sustainability in Fijian villages will be at great risk in the near future.

In 2010 a national task force was established by the (then) Ministry of Primary Industries, and started the work on training local communities on prevention, surveillance, immediate response and reporting, an incursion response plan was developed and environmental impact study.

Approximately USD$4m has been accessed through the GEF 6 program to combat GII focusing on strengthening policy, institution coordination, improve IAS prevention management and awareness. The Project commenced in 2017 and will end in 2023.

FOCAL AREA 5: Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming (EEM)

NATIONAL TARGET

Agencies have put in place relevant legislations and policies, including Access and Benefit Sharing protocols that support NBSAP implementation; businesses and production sectors are adopting Fiji's Green Growth Framework; and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to develop and implement plans for sustainable production and consumption.

Case-Study: Fiji ABS Policy Framework – Since 2018, Fiji has been working towards an ABS policy Framework. The approach undertaken are in three phases which are; baseline assessment, visioning and goal setting and developing the policy approach. The first phase of the ABS policy assessment or gap analysis has been carried out and some of the key findings were;

(i) Concepts integral to the prior informed consent (PIC) process is covered by several existing legislations; however, none of the existing PIC processes cover all 7 conditions outlined in Article 6 (specifying PIC process practice) of the Nagoya Protocol.
(ii) The granting of research and export permits is addressed in multiple, overlapping pieces of legislation. A key gap in the permitting process is the uncertainty in the application requirements and process; and the lengthy time it takes to obtain a research permit.
(iii) Current permitting processes require research permits for international researchers but not for local researchers

FOCAL AREA 6: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT (SUD)

NATIONAL TARGET

The NBSAP strategies and action plans are fully incorporated into 5 & 20 Year's National Development Plan, the Green Growth Framework and other sectoral plans (e.g. Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Tourism, etc.).

Case-Study: Likuliku Lagoon is an island resort in the Malolo group of island. It has a program based on marine flora and fauna including turtle conservation, coral and clam planting, and consultation with the local community to install marine protected areas on reefs in order improve fish stocks, have been in place since we opened". Likuliku's environmental initiatives took a dramatic turn in 2010 when a single, endemic Fiji Crested Iguana "*Brachylophus vitiensis*" was found at Likuliku. This species was thought to be extinct on the island of Malolo as there had not been any sightings for over 30 years. The national demise of the Fiji crested iguana has been largely due to the destruction of their natural habitat, is the Fiji dry forest, of which only 1% remains in Fiji. The Likuliku crested iguana breeding facility is the only one in the world to breed the Fiji crested iguana under natural conditions (*in-situ*).

Case-Study: Navuniivi Village in Rakiraki Mangrove restoration undertook 600 mangrove seedling planting on the shores of Navuniivi Village in Ra to help restore traditional fishing grounds. It is a village initiative. The coastal erosion causes the village to venture out into deeper waters to catch fish and the mangrove planting initiative comes with the hope that the mangroves will establish new fishing grounds while to helps stop the erosion of the beach.

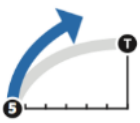
Section III. Assessment of progress towards each national target.

In assessing Fiji's progress towards each national target, Fiji used the results from Section II of the report under measures and actions taken and the assessment of effectiveness of the implementation to rate if the implementation has been effective, partially effective, ineffective or unknown. The key achievements are summarised below under each national target and corresponding indicators.

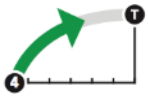
Expert Opinion

During the stakeholder consultation, we also collected available experts' opinion to assess Fiji's progress for each national target and indicators. Under each of the national target the experts who were invited to the validation workshops in the Central Division (Suva), Western Division (Nadi) and Northern Division (Labasa) were asked to individually make their assessment using the guide provided. For each indicator they assessed the Category of Progress and indicated their level of confidence (see below). Please note that the assessments are subjective, and it is important to take the level of confidence into account.

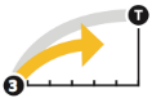
Category of progress towards the implementation of selected target



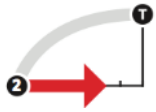
On track to exceed, target



On track to achieve, target



Progress towards target but at an insufficient rate



No significant change

Moving Away from target

Unknown

Level of confidence of the above assessment

☐ Based on comprehensive evidence

☐ Based on partial evidence

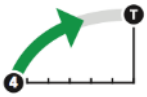
☐ Based on limited evidence

The key national targets assessed were the Improving Our Knowledge, Protected Areas (Terrestrial and Marine) and Species Management

Focus Area 1: Improving Our Knowledge

National Target

Fijians are aware of values of biodiversity and traditional knowledge and practice are integrated with the latest scientific knowledge into sustainable biodiversity conservation practices.



On track to achieve, target

INDICATORS

- Increased trends in public engagements with biodiversity.
- Increased trends in awareness and attitudes to biodiversity.
- Increased integration of traditional knowledge and practices in biodiversity conservation.
- Increased research and knowledge on Fiji's rich biodiversity.
- Increased biodiversity knowledge applied in different sectors such as education, health, agriculture, forestry and industries to make management decisions.
- Increased willingness to use technology and systems.

Most of the objectives were rated as being "On track to achieve target". The measures were based on national education and awareness activities on the important role of biodiversity to people's livelihoods and overall wellbeing and integration of traditional ecological knowledge innovations and good practices of Fijian communities into conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity. From section II, some of the actions/ measures highlighted under this national target were:

- There was an increase in recognition of the value of traditional ecological knowledge
- Innovation and applied best practice at community conservation level
- Documentation of traditional knowledge
- Applied knowledge on species conservation
- Documentation of traditional knowledge

Figure 2: Improving our knowledge National Target - Progress and Level of confidence graph

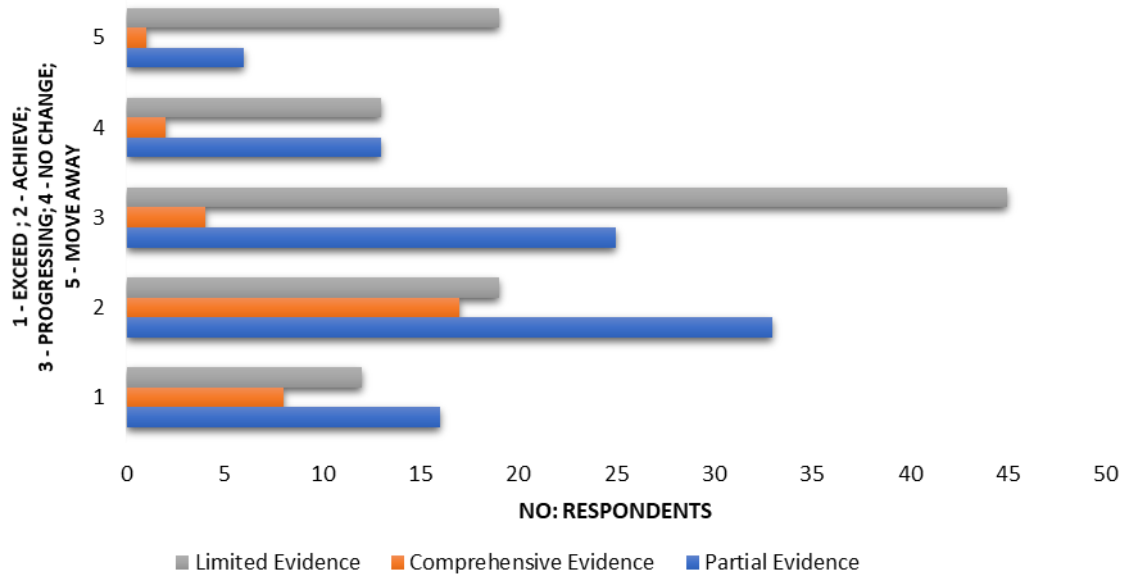


Figure 2 shows a wide variety of opinions ranging from Fiji "exceeding" its target in this Focal Area (15 respondents, with confidence majorly supported by "partial evidence"), to "moving away" from its target (about 20 respondents, with confidence, majorly supported by "limited evidence").

FOCUS AREA 2 – PROTECTED AREA

NATIONAL TARGET

Terrestrial Protected Area Target:

Areas of high biological importance have been identified by the Ministry of Environment and endorsed by NEC.

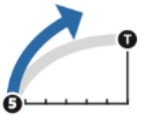
On track to achieve, target

Marine PA Target:

(a) Areas of high biological importance have identified by Ministry of Environment and endorsed by NEC. At least 30% of Fiji's offshore areas are effectively managed and part of a national marine protected areas network and;

On track to achieve, target

(b) By 2025, 100% of inshore traditional fishing grounds (*iQoliqoli*) are effectively managed within locally managed areas.



On track to exceed, target

Indicators

- Total area of representative coverage of formally and informally recognized terrestrial and marine protected areas and locally managed areas.
- Total area and number of protected areas that are effectively managed based on agreed national protected area criteria for evaluating management effectiveness.
- Measurement of ecosystem services and equitable benefits from protected areas.
- Measure if trends in connectivity of protected areas and other area-based approaches are integrated into landscapes and seascapes.

As reported in Section II Fiji has progressed a lot of their specific targets under this Focal Area and below are key achievements:

- Fiji completed a Marine Ecological Gap Assessment in 2017.
- Special Unique Marine Areas (SUMAs) in Fiji. The total number of SUMAs identified is 124 and 104 of these are found within Fiji's archipelagic or inshore waters and 20 SUMAs in offshore waters. The total coverage of SUMAs in Fiji waters is 155,850.5 sq. km of which 17,963.5 sq. km are within inshore areas and 137,887 sq. km in offshore areas within our EEZ.A map and description of marine bioregions for Fiji's entire EEZ has been developed that can be used for marine spatial planning and the identification of marine protected networks.
- Spatial planning tools have been used to identify a network of potential candidate marine protected area sites for public consultation, to ensure the protection of Fiji's unique biodiversity.
- Terrestrial PA prioritisation completed and showed existing protected area covers 3% of Fiji's landmass while proposed protected area systems account for 13% of Fiji's land area. Hence, Fiji may contribute 16% of its landmass to fulfil CBD Aichi Target 11.
- Fiji has developed its **Proposed Terrestrial Protected Areas Map** (2012) of candidate sites which has all the species and habitat justifications. The national PAC and the NEC have adopted this.

Figure 3: Terrestrial Protected Areas National Target - Progress and Level of confidence graph

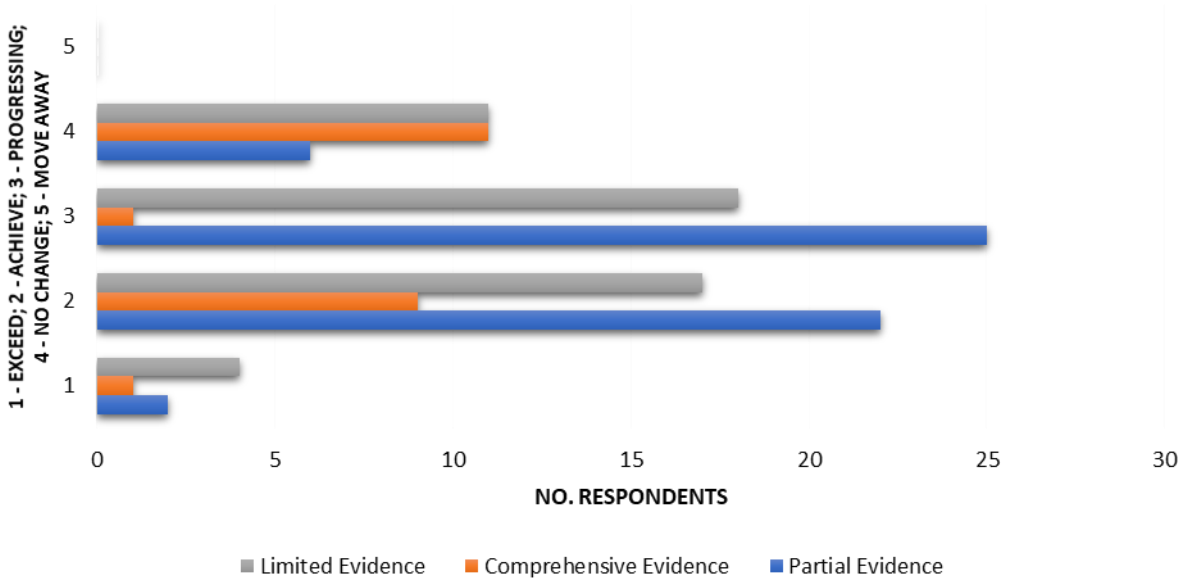
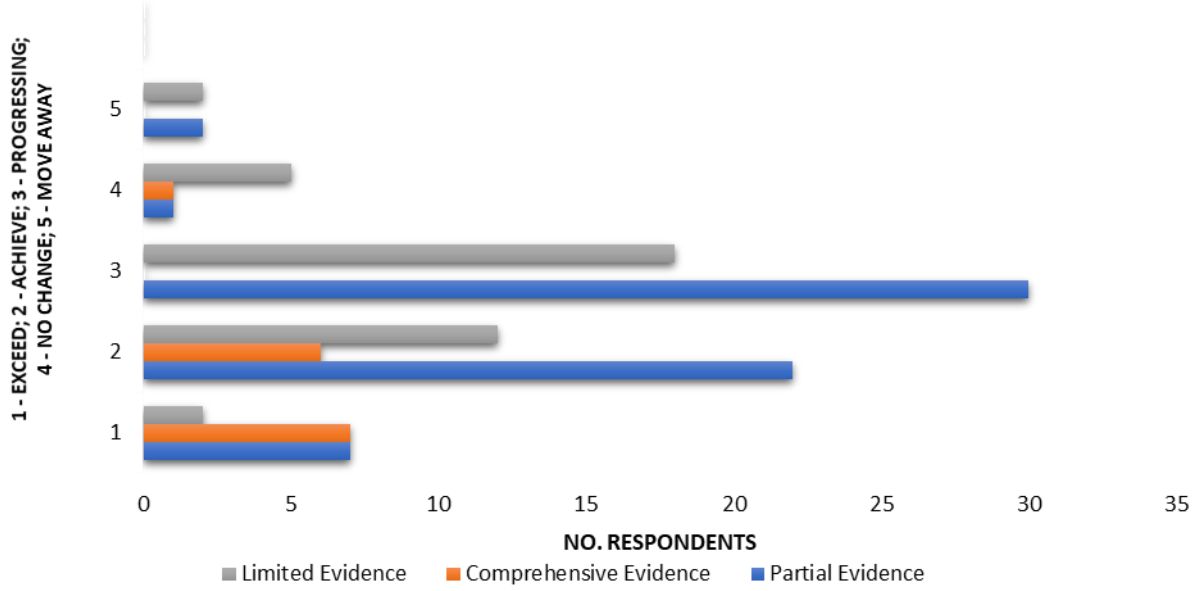


Figure 3 reflects the results of Section II for this focal area. No one thought that Fiji was moving away from its target; with opinions ranging from "exceeding target" to "no change". It is interesting to note that majority opinion was that Fiji was "progressing towards achieving the target, but at an insufficient rate", supported by "partial evidence".

Figure 4: Marine Protected Areas National Target - Progress and Level of confidence graph



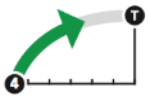
Accordingly, for PA Marine the trend portrays progressing towards marine national targets and in some areas, expert opinion stated that Fiji as either achieved and one exceeded national targets.

Figure 4 shows that for Fiji's Marine PAs, the opinions on Fiji's progress ranged from "exceeding" (supported by partial and comprehensive evidence) to "moving away" (supported by limited and partial evidence). Note that most (over 30 respondents) thought that Fiji was "progressing towards its target, but at insufficient rate", supported majorly by "partial evidence".

FOCUS AREA 3: SPECIES MANAGEMENT (SM)

NATIONAL TARGET

By 2025, at least 10 known threatened plant and animal species have been protected and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.



On track to achieve, target

INDICATORS

- Reduced trend in extinction risks of Fiji's 10 priority plant and animal species
- Increased trend in the population of the 10 priority threatened plant and animal species for Fiji
- Increased trend in the distribution of the 10 selected plant and animal species

Some key outcomes highlighted in Section II include:

- Enforcement of the Endangered and Protected Species (EPS) Act 2002.

- Establishment of the Fiji CITES Scientific Council under the EPS Act 2002.
- Significant contribution of the Ministry of Environment towards improving our knowledge on CITES and EPS Act 2002 listed species. The Scientific Council has relooked at the relisting of the schedules under the EPS Act 2002.
- Ministry of Environment has provided trainings to border control enforcement agencies on CITES-listed species, carrying out an average of 1-2 workshops per year since 2015.
- Ministry of Environment has an MoU with the Fiji Income Revenue and Customs Authority to address CITES issues.
- In 2020, the Ministry of Environment launched a Policy to protect Fiji's Iguana to guide the Ministry's work.

Figure 5: Species Management National Target - Progress and Level of confidence graph

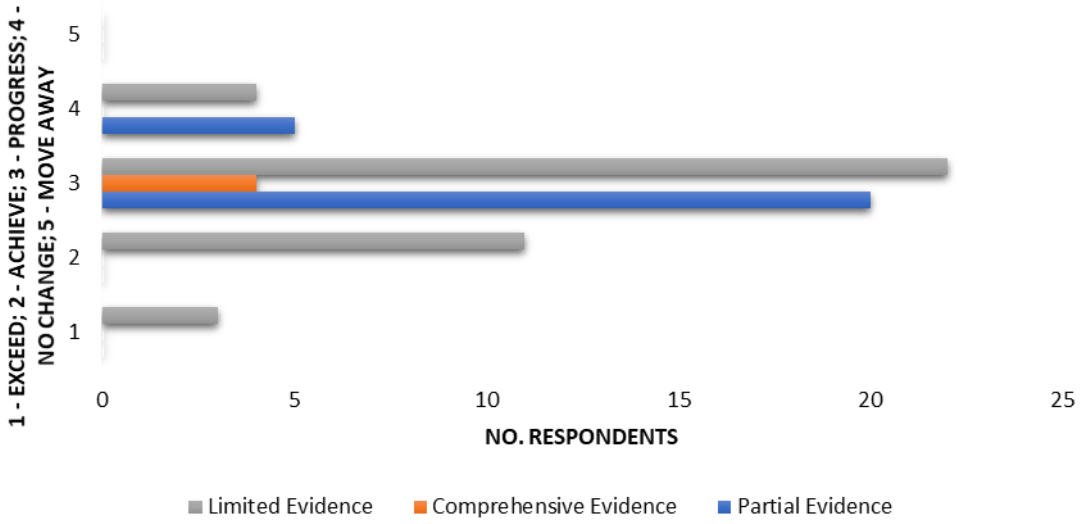
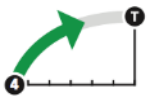


Figure 5 shows that opinions ranged from "exceeding target" (supported by limited evidence) to "no changes" (supported by partial and limited evidence). Most thought that Fiji was "progressing towards achievement, but at insufficient rate", supported majorly by "limited evidence".

FOCAL AREA 4: MANAGEMENT OF INVASIVE SPECIES (MIS)

Fiji's invasive alien species (IAS), pathways, risks and threats to biodiversity and livelihoods have been identified; priority IAS are controlled or eradicated, and by 2023 measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.



On track to achieve, target

-

INDICATORS

- Assessment and measurement of the impact of invasive alien species on biodiversity and food security.
- Impact of policy responses, legislation and management plans to control and prevent the spread of invasive and alien species

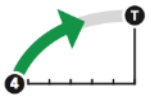
Fiji is progressing well under this focal area since the establishment of the Biosecurity Authority (BAF) of Fiji. The key progress indicators are:

- An assessment of invasive species that are particularly harmful for island ecosystems have been conducted.
- There has been some level of alien invasive species pathway analysis done.
- Risk Assessment pathways forms as an on-going activity for BAF.
- Community-based incursion response plans developed for the mongoose on Taveuni, Kadavu and Gau; and Giant Invasive Iguana incursion response plans for Taveuni.
- Databases on invasive alien species occurrence within Fiji and different islands completed.
- A desktop review of IAS in Fiji and their occurrence by island has been completed by Stanford (2019).
- National Invasive Species Framework and Strategic Action Plan that is being developed under the GEF 6.

FOCAL AREA 5: ENABLING ENVIRONMENT AND MAINSTREAMING (EEM)

NATIONAL TARGET

Agencies have put in place relevant legislations and policies, including Access and Benefit Sharing protocols that support NBSAP implementation; businesses and production sectors are adopting Fiji's Green Growth Framework; and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to develop and implement plans for sustainable production and consumption.



On track to achieve, target

INDICATOR

- Increased initiatives by the different sectors to minimize their impact on Fiji's biodiversity.
- Increased political awareness and support for biodiversity policies.
- Increased communication programmes focused on biodiversity to promote actions and social corporate responsibility with the private sector.
- Increased engagement and partnerships to raise awareness evoke active responses, information sharing and cross-sector coordination and communication.

This national target has been progressing well and below are some key results of our national progress.

- In 2012, a legal review was conducted to specifically assess legislative gaps for the development and management of marine and terrestrial Protected Areas. Some NGO groups have been raising awareness at the community level on the various environmental legislations in place.
- The Ministry of Environment has been engaging with communities all over Fiji through the EIA consultation process.
- The Ministry of Environment also hold business roundtables and clinics to increase Fijian's knowledge on the environmental laws.
- The Ministry of Environment engages with the NBSAP technical experts such as the species group, marine and terrestrial working groups, protected areas and wetlands group in reviewing the EIA reports and during the community consultations/EIA process.

- Fiji developed a draft ABS Policy Framework that has gone through various stakeholder consultations and validation in 2018. The draft ABS policy framework includes institutional arrangements and assignment of roles and responsibilities of ministries such as the Ministry of iTaukei Affairs, through the Provincial Councils, Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Environment.

Figure 6: Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming National Target - Progress and Level of confidence graph

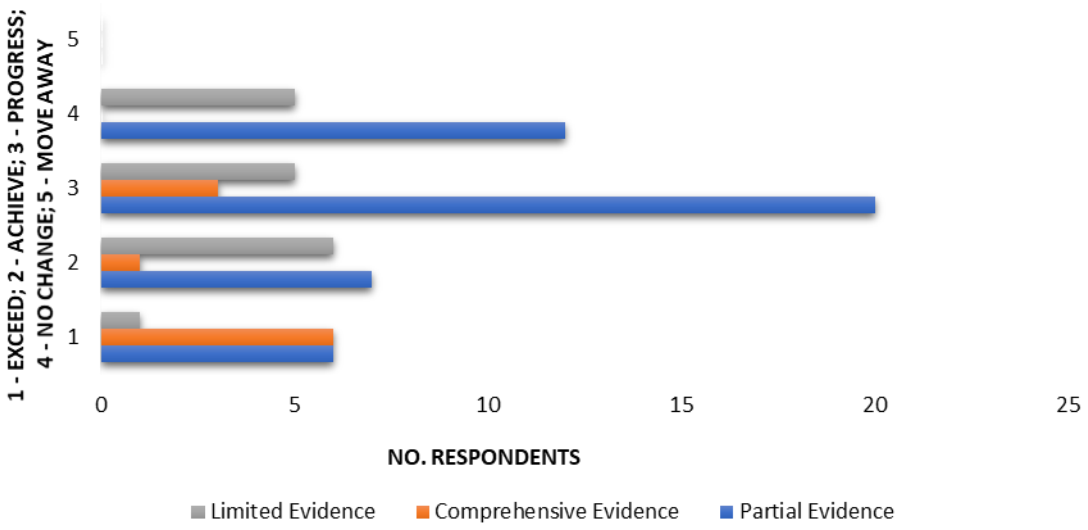
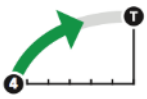


Figure 6 shows a range of opinions from "exceeding target" (supported by comprehensive and partial evidence) to "no change" supported majorly by "partial evidence".

FOCAL AREA 6: SUSTAINABLE USE AND DEVELOPMENT (SUD)

NATIONAL TARGET

The NBSAP strategies and action plans are fully incorporated into 5 & 20 Year's National Development Plan, the Green Growth Framework and other sectoral plans (e.g. Renewable Energy, Agriculture, Forestry, Mining, Tourism, etc.).



On track to achieve, target

INDICATORS

- Decline and extinction of utilised species including traded species are eliminated or significantly reduced
- Degree to which biodiversity and ecosystem service values are incorporated into organisational accounting reporting
- Extinction risk trends of habitat-dependent species is halted or reversed
- Population of habitat dependent species are maintained at healthy levels

This is a very broad focal area and targets a wide range of sustainable development areas such as inshore fisheries, integrated coastal management, wetlands management and also forest management.

Below are some key achievements to validate Fiji's progress.

- The implementation of national and global target has been also integrated into national strategies
- Cross-sectorial forums established under the NBSAP such as the Protected Areas Committee, Wetlands Committee, Terrestrial Working Group and other forums provides this cross-sectorial information and sharing and partnerships.
- Fiji has an Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Framework which promotes ICM Plans to be established at provincial level. Provincial ICM Plans and committees established at provincial level such as Ra, Bua, Kadavu, Lomaiviti and Macuata.
- Fiji has in place a National Mangrove Management Committee (MMC).
- The Ministry of Environment ensures sustainable development through the EIA Process and enforcement of the Environment Management Act 2005.

Figure 7: Sustainable Use and Development National Target - Progress and Level of confidence graph

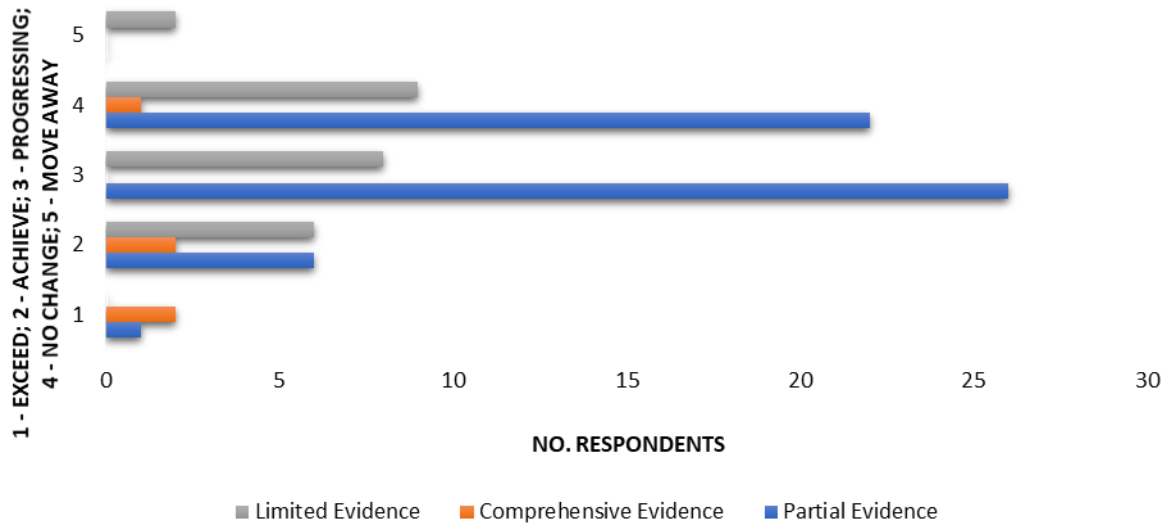


Figure 7 shows opinions ranging from "exceeding target" (supported by "comprehensive evidence") to "moving away" (supported only by "limited evidence". It is interesting to note that many of the respondents thought that Fiji was either "progressing at an insufficient rate" or that there was "no change".

Section IV. Description of the national contribution to the achievement of each global Aichi Biodiversity Target

Fiji's contributions to Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs) are well defined as our national targets are well aligned to the global ABTs. The summaries below give a brief overview of Fiji's contributions and further details can be referenced to the achievements of the national targets outlined in Section 2.

GLOBAL AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET	FIJI'S CONTRIBUTION TOWARDS GLOBAL AICHI BIODIVERSITY TARGET
Strategic Goal A: Address the underlying causes of biodiversity loss by mainstreaming biodiversity across government and society	
Target 1  By 2020, at the latest, people are aware of the values of biodiversity and the steps they can take to conserve and use it sustainably.	Since 2015, there has been increased research and improvement of knowledge in Fiji's rich biodiversity through species ecological studies, citizen science, baseline assessments of biodiversity at terrestrial Key Biodiversity Sites and marine ecosystems, assessments of IUCN status of Fiji's endangered trees, PhD and MSc thesis and publications in peer-reviewed journals. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 4, Target 4.7.
Target 2  By 2020, at the latest, biodiversity values have been integrated into national and local development and poverty reduction strategies and planning processes and are being incorporated into national accounting, as appropriate, and reporting systems.	The implementation of the GEF-PAS 4 in Fiji saw the development of a new curriculum that incorporates up to date biodiversity information. The BIOFIN project assessed how biodiversity can be incorporated into national accounting and reporting systems. Traditional ecological knowledge of Fiji's biodiversity has acknowledged and used to develop species conservation plans and to engage local communities in biodiversity conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 in particular Sustainable Development Targets 2.3 and 2.4.
Target 3  By 2020, at the latest, incentives, including subsidies, harmful to biodiversity are eliminated, phased out or reformed to minimize or avoid negative impacts, and positive incentives for the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity are developed and applied, consistent and in harmony with the Convention and other relevant international obligations, taking into account national socio-economic conditions.	Pacific Community (SPC) under the project Restoration of Ecosystem Services and Adaptation to Climate Change (RESCCUE) provided information on existing instruments and reform efforts of relevance for greening taxes and subsidies in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs). The examples of taxation and subsidies presented in the report demonstrate that whilst such instruments may have economic and social benefits, in some cases they also have the potential to generate harmful or beneficial environmental impacts. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 3, specifically on Sustainaible Development Target 3.9.
Target 4  By 2020, at the latest, Governments, business and stakeholders at all levels have taken steps to achieve	Fiji's Green Growth Framework is Fiji's pathway to restoring balance in development. It provides the national plans to sustainable production and consumption within natural resources safe ecological level. The framework outlines targets and actions for each sector under the environment, social and economic pillars. This reporting period saw the seasonal ban on

or have implemented plans for sustainable production and consumption and have kept the impacts of use of natural resources well within safe ecological limits.

harvesting of groupers to allow for the sustainable harvesting of this group of fish. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 8, 9, 11 & 12.

Strategic Goal B: Reduce the direct pressures on biodiversity and promote sustainable use

Target 5

By 2020, the rate of loss of all-natural habitats, including forests, is at least halved and where feasible brought close to zero, and degradation and fragmentation is significantly reduced.

Fiji implemented and executed many habitat restoration programmes in the forestry sector and marine/coastal zones. A current initiative is the Ridge to Reef (R2R) funded through GEF. Rehabilitation and restoration programmes have been progressing since and before 2015, at district, provincial and national level. A current initiative is "plant 30 Million trees" following from the initial concept of planting a million trees. Therefore, assuming from all the restoration activities implemented in a country it can be concluded that Fiji contributed to some extent to this target, but not as extensively as expected. Mangrove nurseries are being established around the country and seagrass beds protected. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 13, 14 and 15.

Target 6

By 2020 all fish and invertebrate stocks and aquatic plants are managed and harvested sustainably, legally and applying ecosystem-based approaches, so that overfishing is avoided, recovery plans and measures are in place for all depleted species, fisheries have no significant adverse impacts on threatened species and vulnerable ecosystems and the impacts of fisheries on stocks, species and ecosystems are within safe ecological limits.

Decline and extinction of utilised species including traded species are eliminated or significantly reduced.

In 2015 Fiji completed a national marine ecosystem service valuation. It outlines the coastal and marine ecosystems ecological functions that directly and indirectly translate to economic service with value to Fijians. It puts value of ecosystem's support to fish populations that constitute a source of protein, mitigation of climate change through carbon sequestration, provide recreational and aesthetic benefits. It analysed 7 coastal and marine ecosystem services which were subsistence food provision, commercial food harvesting, mineral and aggregate mining, tourism, coastal protection, carbon sequestration, and research and education.

The 4FJ campaign (short for Fiji) is designed to reduce harvest of Grouper, commonly known locally by names such as kawakawa and donu, are an important source of protein for our communities. It aims to help people understand why the increasing loss of a prized food fish is critical to the people of Fiji, and then help you do something, right here, right now, to protect them and ultimately, our way of life. More than 25,000 people have pledged to not eat or sell grouper in June through September and let them breed. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 1, 2, 8, 12 and 14

Target 7

By 2020 areas under agriculture, aquaculture and forestry are managed sustainably, ensuring conservation of biodiversity.

Fiji's agriculture, aquaculture and forestry sectors have sound environment safeguards embedded into their policies, strategies and legislation. Our challenge is monitoring and enforcement capacities.

More efforts are needed to work closely with these sectors to align them with on the ground best practices that ensure long-term conservation is achieved. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG1, 2, 8, 12, 14 and 15.

Target 8

By 2020, pollution, including from excess nutrients, has been brought to levels that are not detrimental to ecosystem function and biodiversity.

The Ministry of Environment continues to enforce all environmental laws. This includes the enforcement of the Litter Act 2008. Appointment of Litter officers is mandated in this the Litter Act. The Ministry works in collaboration with the municipalities to manage wastes from the household within the city and town boundaries. In areas outside of these boundaries, the Environment Ministry works with the Rural Local Authority, an arm of the Ministry of Health mandated under the Public Health Act.

Additionally, Fiji as engaged the public in clean up campaigns, and staged various national and local awareness campaigns on waste management and pollution. With all these activities, and noting the tangibility of this target, it can be concluded through observation, that Fiji's contribution to this target is insignificant. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 3, 6, 11, 12 and 14.

Target 9

By 2020, invasive alien species and pathways are identified and prioritized, priority species are controlled or eradicated, and measures are in place to manage pathways to prevent their introduction and establishment.

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji, with the support of its stakeholders, chairs the Fiji Invasive Species Task Force leads Fiji in addressing Fiji's invasive species and their eradication, control and monitoring.

Fiji has successfully restored 14 islands through mammalian predator removal, enabling the recovery of Fiji's seabirds and the critically endangered crested iguana.

Inter-island biosecurity protocols have been assessed, community-based mongoose incursion response plans, post-mammalian-eradication biosecurity plans have been developed for Fiji. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 15.

Target 10

By 2015, the multiple anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs, and other vulnerable ecosystems impacted by climate change or ocean acidification are minimized, to maintain their integrity and functioning.

Fiji's marine work is well advanced at community level with the work of FLMMA and the larger seascape work targeting larger high biodiversity coral reefs such as Great Sea Reef, Bligh Waters and Lau Seascape to reduce anthropogenic pressures on coral reefs. The Ministry of Environment's EIA processes also is a key gate-keeper to ensure development pressures are reduced. The Ministry of Environment has launched a Policy on Coral Reef and associated habitat protection to guide the Ministry's work. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 10.

Strategic Goal C: To improve the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity

Target 11

By 2020, at least 17 per cent of terrestrial and inland water, and 10 per cent of coastal and marine areas, especially areas of particular importance for biodiversity and ecosystem services, are conserved through effectively and equitably managed, ecologically representative and well-connected systems of protected areas and other effective area-based conservation measures, and integrated into the wider landscapes and seascapes.

In 2015, under the GEF PAS 4 FPAM Project, a preliminary review of the existing policies, institutional structures and legislations related to forest conservation and protection was conducted.

Existing terrestrial PA covers 3% of Fiji's landmass while proposed terrestrial PA systems account for 13% of Fiji's land area. The main categories for terrestrial PAs in Fiji (aligned to the IUCN categories) includes: Strict Nature Reserves (32%); Species and Habitat Management (11%); Multiple Use (53%) and traditional/cultural Values (Natural Monument/Features) (4%). Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 6, 14 and 15.

Target 12

By 2020 the extinction of known threatened species has been prevented and their conservation status, particularly of those most in decline, has been improved and sustained.

Updating of Fiji's IUCN RedListed species, is in the research phase (species distribution confirmation, phenological studies, propagation methods etc). Fiji's Critically endangered and endemic crested iguana; and endangered and endemic Fiji sago palm are two species for which management regimes have been carried out, from *ex-situ* captive breeding to *in-situ* habitat restoration, *in-situ* captive breeding and propagation methods. While the knowledge on how to improve the species' status has been documented, the threats to the species remain (habitat loss in its native range, and presence of introduced predators). Work is currently underway for Fiji's endangered bats, plants, birds, insects and fish, and their habitats. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 14 and 15.

Target 13

By 2020, the genetic diversity of cultivated plants and farmed and domesticated animals and of wild relatives, including other socio-economically as well as culturally valuable species, is maintained, and strategies have been developed and implemented for minimizing genetic erosion and safeguarding their genetic diversity.

Fiji, in collaboration with the Pacific Community (SPC), has developed and continued to maintain gene banks for Fiji's cultivated, farmed and domesticated plants and animals. The introduction of Climate Smart Agriculture has seen more interest in field and community applications of traditional varieties of crops and agroforestry systems. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 2 and 3.

Strategic Goal D: Enhance the benefits to all from biodiversity and ecosystem services

Target 14

By 2020, ecosystems that provide essential services, including services related to water, and contribute to health, livelihoods and well-being, are restored and safeguarded, taking into account the needs of women, indigenous and local communities, and the poor and vulnerable.

Fiji has been working in collaboration with SPREP, USP and SPC on restoration projects aiming to restore important ecosystems for ecological services and community livelihoods. Some of the initiatives include the RESCCUE, PEBACC, MACBIO, Ministry of Environment R2R program and currently the WISH programmes. These programmes have been working to restore forests ecosystems, watersheds, mangroves, and marine ecosystems in Fiji. Additionally, there are established national MPAs, LMMAs managed by communities and there are systems also managed under international obligations such as Ramsar. Currently, there are two Ramsar sites in Fiji, a marine-based and a river-based terrestrial system. Judging from the various activities and initiatives in Fiji, it can be concluded that Fiji is contributing mildly towards this target. The success is in compiling all the lessons learnt future improvement and to adapt in future initiatives. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 1, 3, 6, 9, 13, 14 and 15.

Target 15

By 2020, ecosystem resilience and the contribution of biodiversity to carbon stocks has been enhanced, through conservation and restoration, including restoration of at least 15 per cent of degraded ecosystems,

Fiji has been able to address this through the Fiji National REDD+ Programme came about in 2009. Since then, the National REDD+ Policy has developed and implemented to enhance the national forest-based carbon balance by:

Supporting and strengthening initiatives that address the drivers of forest-based carbon emissions; and encouraging the drivers of forest-based carbon sinks

The implementation of the National REDD+ Programme is overseen by the National REDD+ Steering Committee, a multi-sectorial and inter-agency committee with decision-making

thereby contributing to climate change mitigation and adaptation and to combating desertification.

capacities and technical expertise in various fields.

Fiji has established a REDD+ pilot site, has now almost completed its REDD+ Readiness phase and will be implementing the Emission Reductions Program through the Ministry of Forestry. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 6, 9,13 and 15.

Target 16

By 2015, the Nagoya Protocol on Access to Genetic Resources and the Fair and Equitable Sharing of Benefits Arising from their Utilization is in force and operational, consistent with national legislation.

In 2018 Fiji implemented a UNDP GEF funded project on Access to Genetic Resources and Benefit Sharing (ABS) which aimed to address issues affecting national capacity to implement, institutionalise and operationalise ABS Agreements and the Nagoya Protocol which was signed by Fiji in 2014.

Project was implemented by the Ministry of Environment in collaboration between Ministry of Itaukei Affairs, Ministry of Fisheries and USP-Institute of Applied Sciences.

Through the project, Fiji looked at (1) discovering active compounds for pharmaceutical and agrochemical uses from organisms in marine areas (scientific survey and transfer knowledge). (2) Operationalization of ABS Agreement and Benefit-sharing and (3) increase capacity to operationalise Nagoya obligations (administrative systems, procedures and information systems). Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 8, 14 and 15.

Strategic Goal E: Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building

Target 17

By 2015 each Party has developed, adopted as a policy instrument, and has commenced implementing an effective, participatory and updated national biodiversity strategy and action plan.

In 2014 Fiji reviewed the focus areas of the 2007 NBSAP and agreed to six priority focus areas to be addressed under the 2020–2025 NBSAP.

Focus 1: Improving our knowledge (IK)
Focus 2: Developing Protected Areas (PA)
Focus 3: Species Management (SM)
Focus 4: Management of Invasive Species (IS)
Focus 5: Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming (EEM)
Focus 6: Sustainable Use and Development (SUD).
Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 16 and 17.

Target 18

By 2020, the traditional knowledge, innovations and practices of indigenous and local communities relevant for the conservation and

Fiji is globally recognised in applying traditional systems of conservation through its work on coastal and coral reef conservation through locally managed marine areas and science-based inter-links such as the WCS science-based marine work. Most of the conservation work in Fiji are community-

sustainable use of biodiversity, and their customary use of biological resources, are respected, subject to national legislation and relevant international obligations, and fully integrated and reflected in the implementation of the Convention with the full and effective participation of indigenous and local communities, at all relevant levels.

based but with strong co-management with government and science-based approaches. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG SDG 2,3 and 5.

Target 19

By 2020, knowledge, the science base and technologies relating to biodiversity, its values, functioning, status and trends, and the consequences of its loss, are improved, widely shared and transferred, and applied.

Fiji need to develop this area of technology but science is well advanced and enough capacity to continue to improve best practices. The academic institutions such as University of the South Pacific and the University of Fiji plays a key role in this area. The Ministry of Environment's decisions are guided by science. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG 4, 9, 12 and 14.

Target 20

By 2020, at the latest, the mobilization of financial resources for effectively implementing the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020 from all sources, and in accordance with the consolidated and agreed process in the Strategy for Resource Mobilization, should increase substantially from the current levels. This target will be subject to changes contingent to resource needs assessments to be developed and reported by Parties.

In 2017 Fiji was part of the Biodiversity Finance Initiative to map the impact of economic sectors on biodiversity, identified financing mechanisms used and reviewed subsidies impact on biodiversity. The Reports produced under this project are in draft forms and have not been endorsed.

The Government of Fiji through the various multilateral financing organisations have been able to get funding and also through national budget to implement projects/programmes. Achievements for this ABT will also contribute to SDG SDG 10 and 17.

Section V. Description of the national contribution to the achievement of the targets of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation

The networks for plant conservation in Fiji exist informally, and mostly within academia and government ministries such as the Fiji Ministry of Forestry and Ministry of Agriculture, through their research divisions.

Some of the measures undertaken by Fiji for the implementation of the GSPC have been reported in Section III of this report, under Focal Area I (Improving Our Knowledge), Focal Area II (Developing Protected Areas) and Focal Area 3 (Species Management). These measures are interlinked in that the Terrestrial Protected Area systems were recommended based on localities of high conservation value areas where endemic and endangered species are located. Fiji's endemic and endangered plants form an important part of this decision-making process.

Fiji's Alliance for Zero Extinction Sites (https://zeroextinction.org/site-identification/2018-global-aze-map/) are all terrestrial, triggered by forest-based, restricted range and critically endangered species of plants and animals, mostly threatened by loss of forest habitat. Fiji's Key Biodiversity Areas (http://keybiodiversityarea.org/) are also triggered by restricted range and critically endangered plants and animals.

Category of progress towards the target of the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation at the national level

GSPC Target 1: An online flora of all known plants.

- On track to achieve target at national level
- Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- No significant change at the national level

While there is no national database on Fiji's known plants, there are some online lists of flora for Fiji's principal vegetation types (e.g. Dry forests: http://uclafijidryforest.weebly.com/flora.html). The South Pacific Regional Herbarium within the University of the South Pacific holds the database for all known flora within Oceania, including Fiji.

GSPC Target 1: An online flora of all known plants.

- On track to achieve target at national level
- Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- No significant change at the national level

GSPC Target 2: An assessment of the conservation status of all known plant species, as far as possible, to guide conservation action.

- On track to achieve target at national level
- Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- No significant change at the national level

In 2016, under a partnership between Global Trees Campaign and NatureFiji-MareqetiViti (NFMV) funded by Keidanren Nature Conservation Fund, a red listing workshop was held in Suva, Fiji. Workshop participants from NFMV, the Ministry of Forestry, The Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC), the University of South Pacific and The University of South Australia, identified priority tree species that required a conservation assessment and were trained in the IUCN Red List process. Many previous assessments were updated, with 32 red list assessments produced. Half of the 32 species were assessed as threatened with extinction; these species were prioritised for conservation action.

GSPC Target 3: Information, research and associated outputs, and methods necessary to implement the Strategy developed and shared.

- o On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- o No significant change at the national level

Based on the 2016 assessments, priority species for which there was no current conservation action were identified and funding secured to begin research. Field surveys were conducted in two of Fiji's priority dry forests for assessed species on the IUCN Red List and to gather data on those species assessed as Data Deficient. These surveys recorded the presence of five of Fiji's threatened trees and confirmed the importance of future restoration plans for the dry forests. NFMV and Ministry of Forestry collected seeds of dry forest tree species, and seedlings are now being grown in MoF nurseries. Species for which there is current work to improve knowledge and conservation actions include: *Pterocymbium oceanicum, Dacrydium nausoriense,* Fiji's endemic hibiscus plants, and more recently, *Metroxylon vitiense.*

GSPC Target 4: At least 15 per cent of each ecological region or vegetation type secured through effective management and/or restoration.

- o On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- o No significant change at the national level

Through the proposed Proposed Terrestrial Protected Area system, Fiji can manage up to 13% of its forests. The representation of Fiji's high conservation value forest types, according to the 9 principal vegetation types known for Fiji is yet to be assessed.

GSPC Target 5: At least 75 per cent of the most important areas for plant diversity of each ecological region protected with effective management in place for conserving plants and their genetic diversity.

- o On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- o No significant change at the national level

This target can be achieved through the Proposed Terrestrial Protected Area system, but further analysis can confirm how well it represents Fiji's principal vegetation types and how effectively they can be managed to conserve plants and their genetic diversity.

GSPC Target 6: At least 75 per cent of production lands in each sector managed sustainably, consistent with the conservation of plant diversity.

- On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- No significant change at the national level

There are processes in place through the Itaukei Lands Trust Board, Ministry of Lands, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Forestry to better document Fiji's production lands. Plans for a National Land Use Plan to guide this process have been in place. In the absence of this national document, strategies under the relevant government ministries can achieve this target. The Fiji Forest Policy (2007) and the concept of Permanent Forest Estates points towards the achievement of this target.

GSPC Target 7: At least 75 per cent of known threatened plant species conserved *in situ*.

- On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- No significant change at the national level

This target can be achieved through the Proposed Terrestrial Protected Area system, but further analysis can confirm how well it represents Fiji's known threatened plant species and how well these areas are managed to ensure their conservation.

GSPC Target 8: At least 75 per cent of threatened plant species in *ex-situ* collections, preferably in the country of origin, and at least 20 per cent available for recovery and restoration programmes.

- On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but at an insufficient rate
- No significant change at national level

This target can be achieved through programs being run in collaboration between the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and the Fiji government, which currently have a focus on economically important plant species. Discussions have been made to explore *ex-situ* collections for species that were assessed in 2016. Trials for ex situ collections (in-country) have been made for *Pterocymbium oceanicum, Metroxylon vitiense* and *Acmopyle sahniana*.

GSPC Target 9: 70 per cent of the genetic diversity of crops including their wild relatives and other socio-economically valuable plant species conserved, while respecting, preserving and maintaining associated indigenous and local knowledge.

- On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- No significant change at the national level

The UNDP Small Grants Program has supported Climate Smart Agriculture projects with local communities and government stakeholders in Fiji. Through the cultural mapping exercise being conducted at the 13 provinces in Fiji, and other programs promoting the revival of culturally important agricultural methods, systems and species, some of the knowledge around socio-economically valuable plant species is being collected. These species and their wild relatives are conserved by communities through their village gardens and the Fiji's proposed terrestrial protected area systems.

The Waimakare Forest Farm (https://www.waimakare.com/) in Fiji is a privately owned farm that aims to collect, preserve and propagate some of Fiji's traditional varieties of crops and plants.

GSPC Target 10: Effective management plans in place to prevent new biological invasions and to manage important areas for plant diversity that are invaded.

- ○ On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- ○ No significant change at the national level

It has been documented that Fiji's dry forest ecosystem has been reduced to 1%. The National Trust of Fiji and its partners have restored two of Fiji's dry forest systems through the removal of goats from two islands: Yadua Taba Island and Monuriki Island – which are now important for the conservation of Fiji's crested iguanas. The Fiji Ministry of Forestry, in collaboration with NatureFiji-MareqetiViti and the University of the South Pacific, documented and showed the presence of a new invasive plant – *Pinanga coronata* – the Ivory cane palm in the Colo I Suva forest reserve park. Further work needs to be done on confirming the extent of the spread of this new invasive plant in Fiji, in Fiji's protected areas, and the appropriate eradication methods.

GSPC Target 11: No species of wild flora endangered by international trade.

- ○ On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- ○ No significant change at the national level

This target can be achieved through the Focal Area on Species Management. The CITES Management Authority and the Scientific Council will be able to address any international trade of wild flora.

GSPC Target 12: All wild-harvested plant-based products sourced sustainably.

- ○ On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but an insufficient rate
- ○ No significant change at the national level

This target can be achieved through actions in the Focal Areas on Species Management and Sustainable Use and Development of the Fiji NBSAP. The Endangered and Protected Species Act (2002) will enable the monitoring of wild-harvested plant-based products. The Fiji Ministry of Forestry's Research Division is currently conducting an inventory of Non-timber Forest Products, which will contribute towards achieving this target.

GSPC Target 13: Indigenous and local knowledge innovations and practices associated with plant resources maintained or increased, as appropriate, to support customary use, sustainable livelihoods, local food security and health care.

- ✓ On track to achieve target at national level
- ○ Progress towards target at the national level but at an insufficient rate
- ○ No significant change at the national level

This target can be achieved through actions in the Focal Areas on Species Management, Improving Our Knowledge, Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming and Sustainable Use and Development of the Fiji NBSAP 2020 – 2025.

GSPC Target 14: The importance of plant diversity and the need for its conservation incorporated into communication, education and public awareness programmes...

- ✓ On track to achieve target at national level
- o Progress towards target at the national level but at an insufficient rate
- o No significant change at the national level

This target can be achieved through actions in the Focal Areas on Species Management, Improving Our Knowledge, Enabling Environment and Mainstreaming and Sustainable Use and Development of the Fiji NBSAP 2020 – 2025.

GSPC Target 15: The number of trained people working with appropriate facilities sufficient according to national needs, to achieve the targets of this Strategy.

- o On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at the national level but at an insufficient rate
- o No significant change at the national level

The Fiji Ministry of Forestry's programs in collaboration with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, University of the South Pacific, Fiji National University, NatureFiji-MareqetiViti and with support from global bodies such as Kew Gardens and Botanic Gardens Conservation International have developed a network of individuals trained in the area of plant conservation. A strengthening of this collaboration, with sustained resources and support will help Fiji achieve this target.

GSPC Target 16: Institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation established or strengthened at national, regional and international levels to achieve the targets of this Strategy.

- o On track to achieve target at national level
- ✓ Progress towards target at national level but at an insufficient rate
- o No significant change at the national level

The institutions, networks and partnerships for plant conservation exist, but there is a need to strengthen this network within Fiji and within the region.

SUMMARY

Fiji is making good progress towards achieving the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation. The South Pacific Regional Herbarium at the University of the South Pacific has been instrumental in improving our knowledge about the status of Fiji's plants and in building capacity with the Fiji Ministry of Forestry and other academic institutions. Much of this work may not be publicised, but the progress of the work of the Protected Areas Committee, the updates on the assessments of plants on the IUCN RedList, the progress of the work conducted by the Ministry of Forestry, and conservation actions on the endangered species listed above is an indication of the increasing expertise within Fiji in the area of Plant conservation, and Fiji's commitment to contributing towards the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation.

Fiji's aim to plant 30 million trees within 15 years and the current development of a "Guideline for Reforestation and Afforestation across Fiji's 9 Principal Vegetation Types" (led by GIZ and Ministry of Forestry) is a clear indicator of Fiji's commitment to be guided by best practices when addressing plant conservation.

Section VI. Additional information on the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities (completion of this section is optional)

VI. Additional information on the contribution of indigenous peoples and local communities to the achievement of the Aichi Biodiversity Targets if not captured in the sections above

One of the most distinguishing characteristics of Fiji is our land and sea tenure systems. Land in Fiji can be categorised as being composed of three main types: freehold, state and iTaukei land. Out of these about 9% of the land is freehold, 3% is state land and the remaining 88% is iTaukei land (Shah, 2004). Therefore, close to 90% of land space in Fiji is under traditional ownership. This NBSAP outlines strategies to support and work within this unique tenure system.

Customary ownership of land is recognised by the Constitution of the Republic of Fiji 2013. Customary landowners are given rights of access and use of marine resources in Fiji under the Fisheries Act 1942 and forest resources under Forest Decree 1992, which secures the customary rights of iTaukei Fijians on iTaukei land and the right to exercise any rights established by custom such as hunting, fishing or collecting fruits and vegetables growing in the wild.

Similarly, the Fisheries Act 1942 prescribes rights given to customary landowners to fish and collect shellfish without a permit within their respective mataqali fishing areas registered by the iTaukei Fisheries Commission in the Register of iTaukei Customary Fishing Rights. This is complemented by the Environmental Management Act 2005, which provides recognition of the ties that indigenous people have with their land.

Section VII. Fiji Updated Biodiversity Country Profiles

This section of the report presents Fiji's updated Biodiversity Profile, benefits from biodiversity and ecosystem service and functions. It also presents the main pressures and drivers of change to biodiversity (direct and indirect), the implementation processes and plans of the NBSAP, Fiji's actions to contribute to the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020, support mechanisms for national implementation and mechanisms for monitoring and reviewing implementation

VII A. STATUS AND TREND OF BIODIVERSITY

Fiji's biodiversity in terms of the key ecosystems and the species they support and presented below under Terrestrial and Marine broad ecosystems and specific work in Fiji are also targeted through these broad grouping.

FOREST AND FRESHWATER ECOSYSTEM

Our forest ecosystem has a total forest cover of approximately 1,054,419 ha, which is 58% of the country's total landmass of 1.8 million ha. It is estimated that 85.3% of the forest (approximately 899,000 ha) is natural forests, with 2.4% pine (*Pinus carribaea*) and 5% of mahogany (*Sweitenia macrophylla*) plantations (Department of Forests [DoF] and Secretariat of the Pacific Community [SPC], 2010). It is also home to be home to the majority of the country's endemic flora and fauna. At least 1,518 species of plants are found in the forests, of which 50.1% are endemic while there are around 164 known species of amphibians, birds, mammals and reptiles, of which 28.7% are endemic (DoF and SPC, 2010). Fiji's forest types are classified according to their location and include the high (above 800 m) cloud forests, montane forests (600–800 m) and lowland forests, which are further classified according to the level of rainfall they receive. The coastal littoral forest is found along beaches and supratidal coastal areas, inner margins of mangroves and small uninhabited offshore islands. This forest type comprises drought- and salt-tolerant ocean-dispersed plants and is one of the most highly threatened ecosystems in Fiji.

Fiji's freshwater ecosystems are divided into four main types: rivers, creeks, peat swamps and lakes. Most of these are on the two main high islands. Owing to ecological connectivity, cloud forest, riparian forest, groundwater systems and subterranean flows, agricultural wetlands and estuaries are considered of critical importance for freshwater wetland management and a "ridge to reef" approach to ensure a whole island ecosystem-based approach.

The status terrestrial and freshwater invertebrates in terms of insects has a total of 350 families, 2,254 genera and 4,945 species of insects have been recorded to date in the Fijian archipelago (Evenhuis, 2006). A total of 25 aquatic insect families have been recorded for Fiji.

Fiji is known to have high levels of endemism and species radiation compared to most other Pacific island groups. Fiji has a diverse and distinctive ant fauna (Order Hymenoptera, Family Formicidae), with 43 genera, 187 known species and endemism rates of over 70%, including the endemic genus Poecilomyrma. The Order Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) records close to 80 species (including some undescribed species new to science) and records a 60% endemism rate for those that have been described (Marinov, 2015). Fiji has an endemic genus within the Odonata group, Nesobasis, with records of some 40 species (Van Gossum et al., 2008). 380 species of Macrolepidoptera (butterflies and macromoths) have been recorded. About 50% of these are endemic to Fiji (Robinson, 1978; Clayton, 2004; Tikoca, unpublished). The Fijian Cerambycidae (long-horned beetle) has a total of 45 genera, 124 described species and approximately 80% endemism (Dillon and Dillon, 1952; Waqa-Sakiti, unpublished). Fiji's freshwater mollusc fauna consists of 9 families and 71 species, of which 30 (43%) are endemic (Haynes, 2015). For crustaceans there 10 Palaemonid prawn species (all native to Fiji except *M. rosenbergii*), 14 species of shrimp of which only 3 (21%) are endemic (*C. devaneyi, C. fijiana and C. nudirostris)* and 3 crab species *(Varuna litterata, Labuanium trapezoideum and Utica gracilipes),* which are widely distributed throughout the Indo-Pacific region.

Introduced crustaceans include the giant freshwater prawn *(Macrobrachium rosenbergii),* which was introduced into ponds from Hawaii and Tahiti and is now found in Viti Levu rivers.

For freshwater vertebrates there are 166 species of birds are to occur in Fiji. There are 80 species known to breed locally, of which 35 are endemic (44%), including the endemic breeding seabird, the Fiji Petrel *(Pseudobulweria macgillivrayi).* Of the locally breeding species, 54 are land birds, 18 are seabirds (see 2.7.3(c)) and 12 are introduced. Another 73 species are known to visit Fiji occasionally, but breed elsewhere: 39 seabirds, 30 shorebirds and 2 land birds (Birdlife International 2016). There are five endemic genera: the Shining or Musk Parrots *(Prosopeia);* the Collared Lory or Kula *(Phigys);* Fruit Doves *(Chrysoena),* the Long-legged Thicket bird or Warbler *(Trichocichla)* and the two species of Silktail *(Lamprolia).* In terms of mammals Fiji's only indigenous mammals are bats of which there are six known species. Four of these are large fruit bats *(Megachiropterans)* and two are small insectivorous species *(Microchiropterans).* The Fijian Monkey-faced bat *(Mirimiri acrodonta)* is endemic to the cloud forest habitat of Taveuni Island. The Mirimiri also belongs to an endemic genus, making it one of the rarest bat species globally. Fiji also has an endemic bat sub-species *(Pteropus samoensis nawaiensis). P. samoensis nawaiensis* is uncommon, but is widely distributed throughout the Fijian archipelago. Fijis reptiles fauna consists of 4 snakes (including one endemic genus and one newly identified endemic species); 5 iguanas (four endemic species); 14 skinks (eight endemic species); and 10 geckos (two endemic species). Of the total 32 terrestrial reptile species, 14 are endemic (Zug, 2013). The single endemic genus is the elapid Fiji Burrowing Snake *(Ogmodon vitianus).*

Fiji has two frogs *(genus Platymantis),* both of which are endemic, namely the Fiji Ground Frog *(Cornufer vitianus)* and the Fiji Tree Frog *(C. vitiensis).* These frogs are the westernmost extent of any frog genus into the South Pacific islands. The Fiji Ground Frog occurs in widespread but small populations on Vanua Levu, Taveuni, Viwa, Gau and Ovalau.

A relict population in the Nakauvadra Range of northern Viti Levu still occurs (Thomas, 2009). For freshwater fish, there is a total of 166 species (47 families) of freshwater and estuarine fishes have been estimated, including 13 (8.3%) that are endemic (Jenkins, 2009).

MARINE ECOSYSTEM

Fiji's coral reef spans over 10,020 square kilometres which includes fringing reefs, barrier reefs, platform reefs, oceanic ribbon reefs, drowned reefs, atolls and near-atolls. Mangrove forest ecosystems occur at the mouths of the river deltas in the tidal zone and Fiji has seven mangrove species namely *rhizophora stylosa* and *R. x selala* form a scrubby seaward fringe, replaced by a mixed forest of *Bruguiera gymnorrhiza*, *Excoecaria agallocha, Lumnitzera littorea* and *Xylocarpus granatum. Rhizophora samoensis* occurs further inland. There is an estimated 43,650 ha of cover in 2007 (GoF and SPREP, 2014). The Fiji State of the Environment (SOE) Report estimates that, based on satellite imagery analysis, mangrove areas have decreased in size from 46,150 ha in 1991 to 43,650 ha in 2007 (GoF and SPREP, 2014).

Much of the loss was experienced between 1991 and 2001 (~2000 hectares) and has slowed in the last 10 years. Some larger mangrove areas have grown by 5–10%. The largest of these stands (covering over 90% of Fiji's mangrove area) are found along the south-east and north-west coasts of Viti Levu with extensive cover around the deltas of the Ba, Rewa and Nadi rivers and on the northern shores and the Labasa river delta on Vanua Levu (Spalding et al., 2010; Watling, 2013).

Our marine species Fiji's coral reefs recorded 50 genera and 144 species of coral estimates for six major reef systems (Morris and Pratt, 1997). There is a total of 422 taxa of seaweeds marine algae have been identified (N'Yeurt et al., 1996). One seaweed *(Eucheuma)* is introduced. For marine molluscs an assessment in 1998 noted that 760 species of Fijian bivalves and gastropods have been recorded (Morris, unpublished). Brodie and Brodie (1990) note that 253 species of opisthobranchs have been collected mainly from southern Viti Levu. Six species of bivalves (oysters and mussels) have been introduced. There is a total of 26 species of marine crustaceans (crabs, lobsters, prawns, shrimp, barnacles etc.) from four families have been identified (Morris and Pratt, 1997). Other than sea cucumbers Fijian echinoderms are not well researched. There are at least 28 species harvested commercially (Purcell et al., 2012). Several of the high-value species are listed on the IUCN Red List as endangered or vulnerable (Conand et. al., 2014) and depletion of high-value species is leading to extraction of medium and low-value species, putting greater pressure on the overall sea cucumber industry and earnings from export (Ram et al., 2016; Mangubhai et al., 2016; 2017).

There is 33 of the 2,031 marine fishes recorded from Fiji considered marine endemics (Seeto, 2010), seven living species of sea turtles are found in Fiji waters - green *(Chelonia mydas),* hawksbill *(Eretmochelys imbricata),* leatherback (*Dermochelys coriacea),* loggerhead *(Caretta caretta),* and olive ridley *(Lepidochelys olivacea).* Eighteen species of seabird breed in Fiji and include Frigatebirds, Tropicbirds and Boobies, Noddies and Terns, Storm-petrels, Petrels and Shearwaters (Jenkins, 1986; Watling, 2004. There are 10 cetacean species in Fiji's waters - common minke whale *(Balaenoptera acutorostrata),* humpback whale *(Megaptera novaeangliae),* short-finned pilot whale *(Globicephala macrorhynchus),* killer whale *(Orcinus orca),* false killer whale *(Pseudorca crassidens),* pantropical spotted dolphin *(Stenella attenuate),* spinner dolphin *(Stenella longirostris),* common bottlenose dolphin (*Tursiops truncates),* sperm whale *(Physeter macrocephalus)* and Blainville's beaked whale *(Mesoplodon densirostris)* (Miller et al., 2016).

Main Pressures And Drivers Of Change To Biodiversity (Direct And Indirect)

Pressures and Threats to Forest Ecosystems

Loss of forest cover and fragmentation has negative ramifications to terrestrial ecosystems first as it relates to biodiversity, as loss of habitat is a major cause of species loss and extinction which greatly impacts livelihoods. The second relates to the impacts of land clearance in increasing erosion, which has flow-on effects on freshwater and coastal ecosystems as a result of siltation and sedimentation. Furthermore, land-use change to agriculture increases agricultural pollution and nutrient levels in freshwater and marine ecosystems.

Trends and Threats to Coral Reef Ecosystem

Pressures on Fiji's coral reefs can be categorised into those arising from global factors, including climate change, and Fiji-specific local factors (Bryant et al., 1998). Fiji's increasing population has created greater pressure on reefs from fishing (especially near urban centres) and caused the loss of marine habitats. Threats to Fiji's reefs include, watershed-based - pollution/sedimentation from developments and deforestation – e.g. mining, vegetation clearance for agriculture and forestry; marine pollution (ports, oil terminals, shipping channels, agricultural pesticides and fertilisers, sewage from residential/tourist centres); coastal development (cities, settlements, airports and military bases, mines, tourist resorts); over-fishing as a result of higher population density and use of destructive fishing techniques. While most of Fiji's offshore reefs are in a good and stable condition, with good resilience, many reefs close to inhabited shores show chronic stress arising from local pressures, particularly nutrient and sediment pollution, which have the greatest impact on inshore reefs (Lovell and Sykes, 2004). The proliferation of high-impact logging operations in smaller coastal watersheds of Vanua Levu and Viti Levu is one of the major drivers of freshwater and coastal degradation (Atherton et al., 2006).

In certain areas around the larger islands, high levels of sedimentation and nutrient pollution arising from coastal development and agricultural chemical run-off have changed the ecology of the fringing reefs.

Threats to Mangrove Ecosystems

Loss of mangroves reduces key fish and bird habitats, resulting in economic losses to communities, which rely on them. Mangroves are also a source of fuel, shelter and medicines for many communities and ecosystem services such as protection of shorelines against storm surges; filtration of toxins from freshwater runoff; and they are a major carbon sequestration source for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Threats to mangroves are mostly from development activities.

Threats to Endemic Species

Threats faced by extent IUCN Red Listed threatened species in Fiji (excluding Cnidaria species)

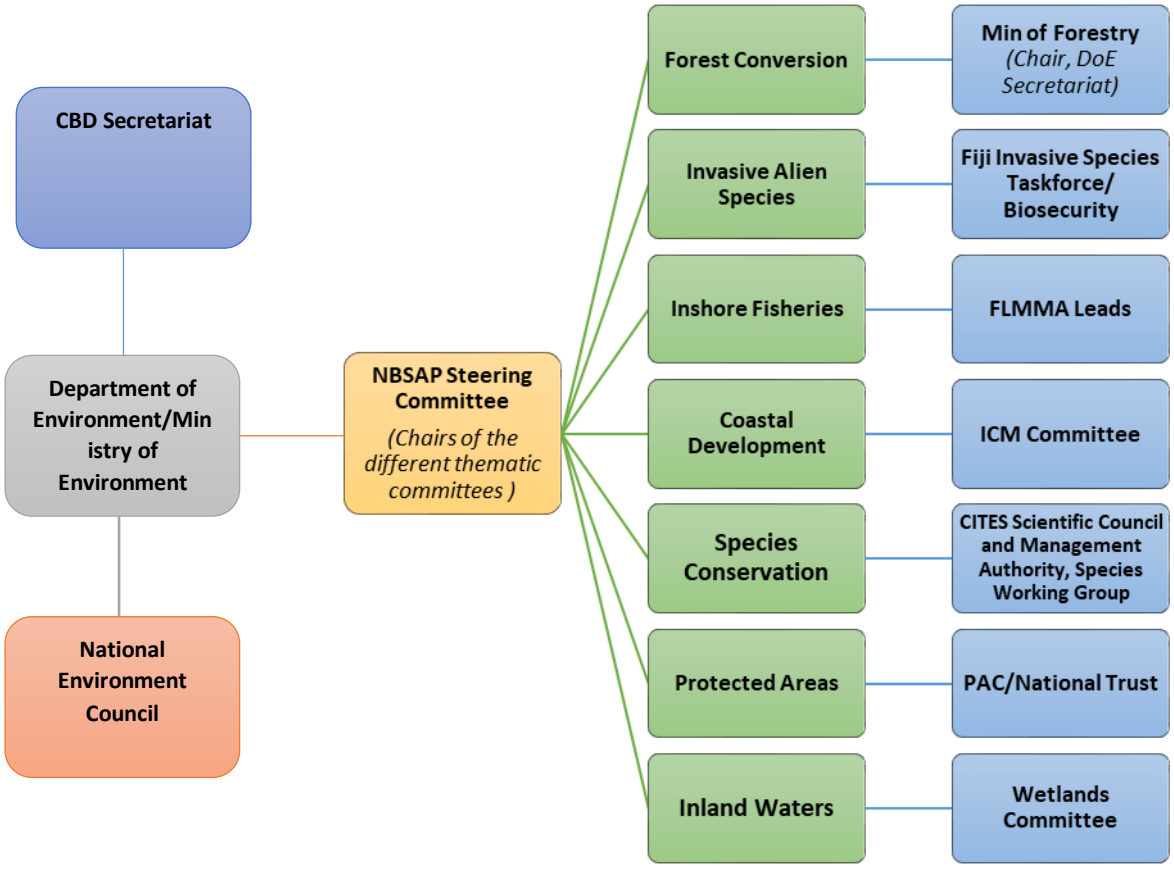
Relative ranking	Threat type	No. of species	% species
1	Invasives	80	42
2	Agriculture	69	36
3	Habitat loss	34	18
4	Development	23	12
4	Climate	19	10
5	Mining	17	9
5	Human disturbance	17	9
6	Fire	6	3
6	Exploitation	6	3
7	Pollution	4	2

(Source: SPREP 2016)

Measures to enhance implementation of the Convention

The implementation of the convention is coordinated by the Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment as the CBD focal point. The implementation is organised through national committees such as the National Environment Council and other committees to align with the Fiji NBSAP Focal Areas and Implementation Framework thematic areas. Below is Fiji's implementation and reporting structure to ensure that each group has clear communication and reporting lines either vertically or horizontally. This will also provide accountability in ensuring actions are implemented and that the groups are aware of the progress and can provide input at different stages of implementation. The NBSAP Steering Committee should at least be convened every quarter to review thematic areas progress reports before they are submitted to the National Environment Council and relevant stakeholders.

Fiji CBD Implementation Structure



Overall Action Taken To Contribute To Implementation Of The Strategic Plan For Biodiversity 2011-2020.

Fiji's NBSAP which is aligned to the Strategic Plan 2011 – 2020 guides Fiji's overall actions and contributions. The key actions are in progressing Fiji's ambitious national targets protected areas, targeting 17% of terrestrial and 30% of marine, 10 of our endangered species protected and managed. Fiji continues our research and improving our knowledge on status and trends of our biodiversity, putting in place enabling mechanisms and working closely with our development sectors to achieve both the CBD Strategic Plan and at the same time meeting our national biodiversity targets and development goals.

Support Mechanism For National Implementation (Legislation, Funding, Capacity Building, Coordination, Mainstreaming Etc)

Legislation

Fiji has in place various environmental laws that are being enforced to ensure sustainable development and utilization of Fiji's natural resources, allows for environmental safeguards to be put in place and protects species that are believed to be threatened with extinction or are endangered and endemic. Two reviews specifically in the marine and terrestrial conservation to identify relevant legislation and policies have been carried out.

Below are the existing Fiji Acts that support the implementation of CBD and Fiji NBSAP.

- Environment Management Act 2005
- Environment Management (EIA Process) Regulations 2007
- Environment Management (Waste Disposal and Recycling) Regulations 2007
- Endangered and Protected Species Act 2002 and Endangered and Protected Species (Amendment) Act 2017
- Biosecurity Act 2008
- Ozone Depleting Substances Act 1998
- Fisheries Act [Cap. 158] 1942
- Forest Act 1992
- Litter Act 2008
  (Amendment) 2010
- Marine Spaces Act [Cap. 158] 1978
- Public Health Act [Cap. 111] 1936
- Radiation Health Act 2009
- Sewerage Act [Cap. 128] 1985
- Town Planning Act (Cap. 139) 1978

Funding.

Fiji's convention and NBSAP implementation has been supported through generous support of major donors such as the Global Environment Facility (GEF), French Development Agency (AFD), French Global Environment Facility (FFEM), Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety. Bundesministerium für Umwelt, Naturschutz und nukleare Sicherheit (BMUB) and many more which supported some of the projects mentioned in the report such as:

- RESCCUE 2014 to 2018 supported ICM management plans and committees support at the provincial level, economic analysis for decision making at the national level, experience sharing from site to regional level, technical assistance and strengthening governance. (Implementing partners – Secretariate of Pacific Communities (SPC), University of the South Pacific (USP) – Institute of Applied Sciences (IAS), Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS), Conservation International (CI), Fiji Environment Law Association - FELA.)
- MACBIO 2013 -2018: project commissioned by BMUB to GIZ as part of IKI, jointly implemented by SPREP, IUCN and GIZ . Supported Fiji in conducting marine ecosystem services valuation, marine planning, review of legislation, policies, strategies relating to MPAs in Fiji.

		• Trends in public engagements with biodiversity	This focal area is recognised
1.	Improving our Knowledge	• Trends in awareness and attitudes to biodiversity	as cross-sectorial and as such
		• Trends in communication programmes in actions promoting social corporate responsibility	reflected in all 7 thematic Areas of the IF.
2.	Developing Protected Areas	• Trends in representative coverage of protected areas including sites of particular importance for biodiversity • Trends in protected area conditions and management effectiveness • Trends in delivery of ecosystem services and equitable benefits from PAs • Trend in connectivity of PAs and other area-based approaches integrated into landscapes and seascapes	Thematic Area 6: Protected Areas
3.	Species Management (SM)	• Trend in extinction risks of species • Trends in abundance of selected species • Trends in distribution of selected species	Thematic Area 5: Species Conservation
4.	Management of Invasive Species (IS)	• Trends in the impact of invasive alien species on extinction and risk trends • Trends in policy responses, legislation and management plans to control and prevent spread of invasive and alien species	Thematic Area 2: Invasive Alien Species
5.	Enabling Environment (EEM)	• Trends in implementation of national biodiversity strategies and action plans including their comprehensiveness • Aggregated financial flows in the amount of biodiversity related funding, per annum, for achieving NBSAP objectives	This focal area is recognised as cross sectorial and as such reflected in all 7 thematic Areas of the IF.
6.	Sustainable-Use and Development (SUD)	• Trends in extinction of utilised species including traded ones • Trend to which biodiversity and ecosystem service values are incorporated into organisational accounting reporting • Extinction risk trends of habitat-dependent species • Population of habitat dependent species • Trends in extinction of by-catch • Trends in contamination of wildlife	This focal area is recognised as cross sectorial and as such reflected in all 7 thematic Areas of the IF.

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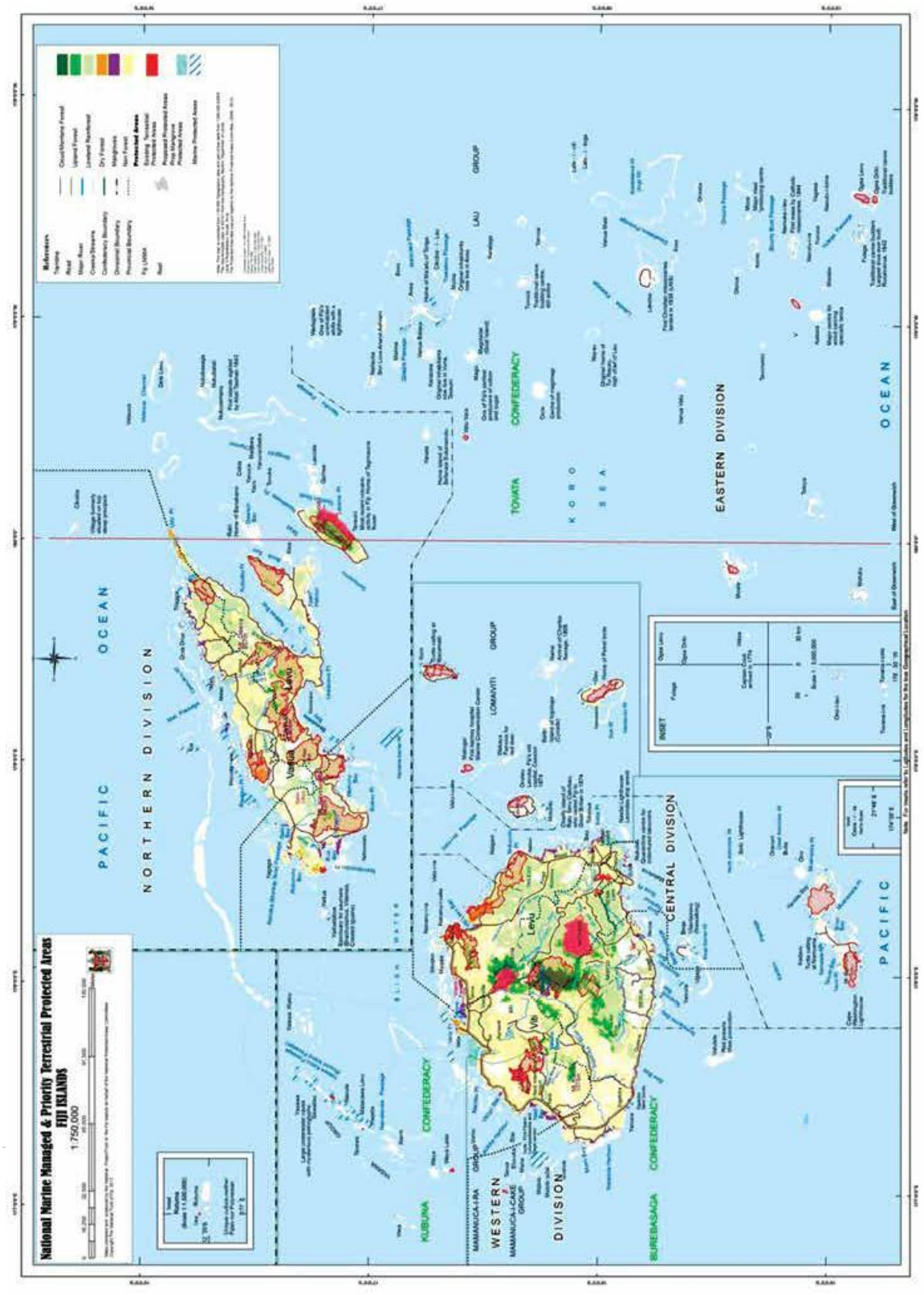
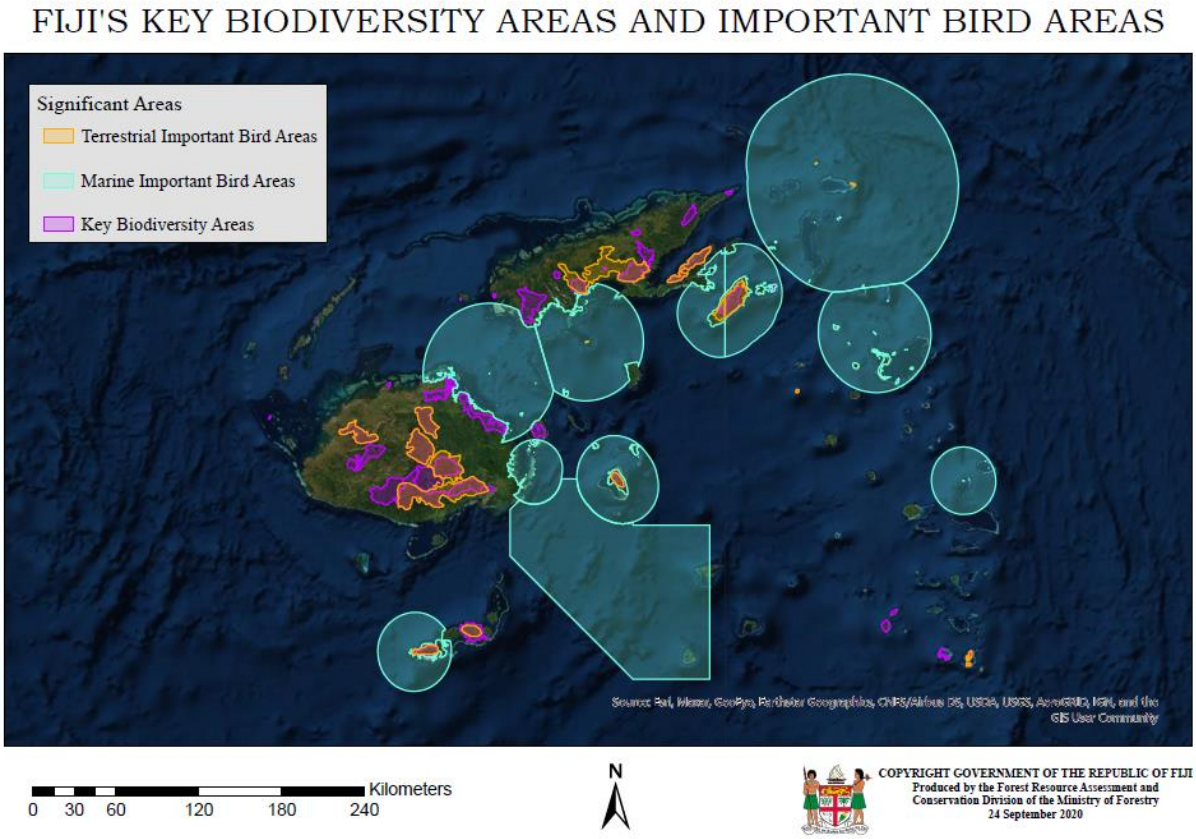
Annexe 1: Map Of Proposed Terrestrial Protected Areas For Fiji

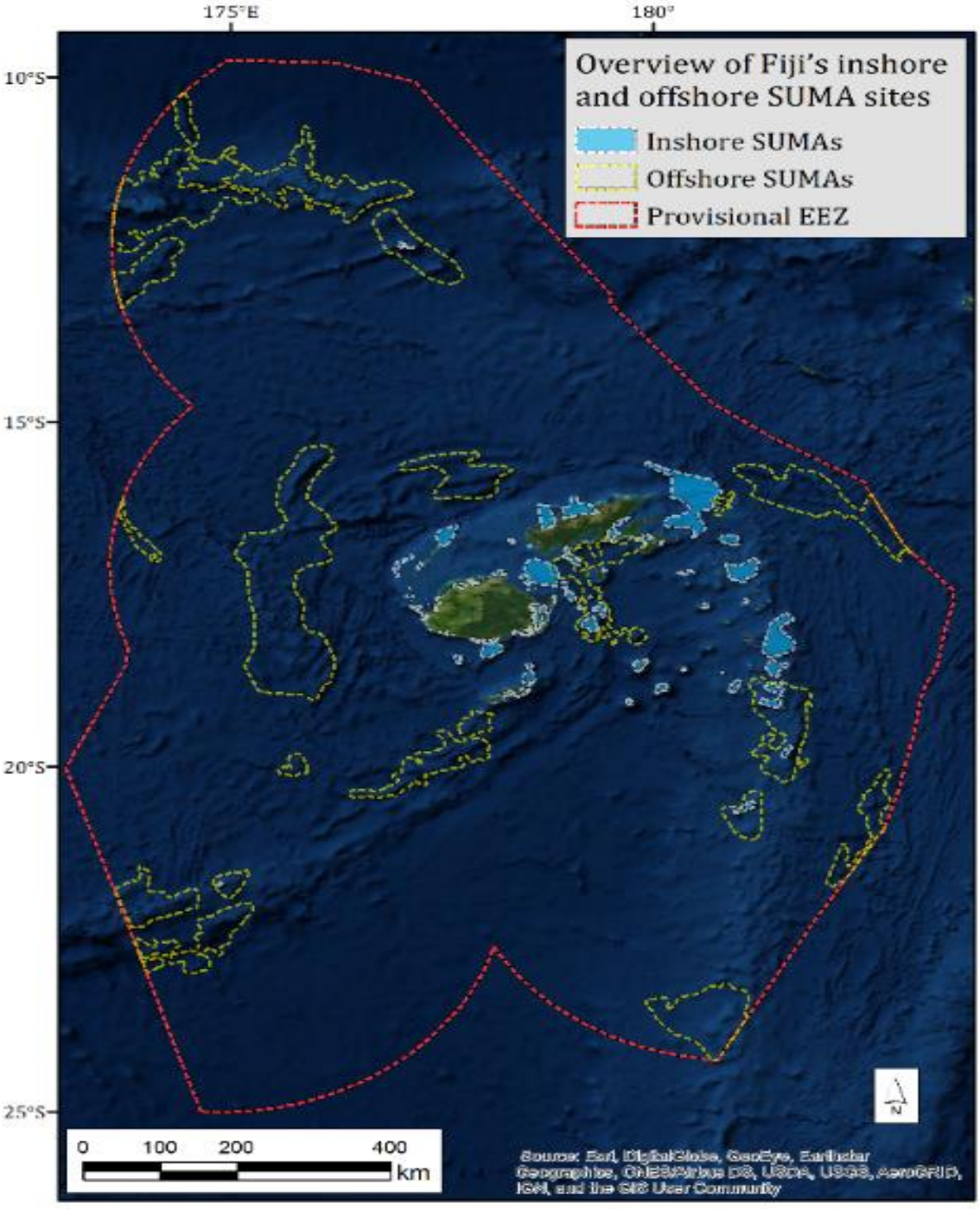
(Source: Fiji NBSAP 2020 – 2025)



Annexe 2: Map Of Fiji Key Biodiversity Areas And Important Bird Areas



Annexe 3: Overview Of Fiji's Inshore And Offshore Special And Unique Marine Areas (Suma) Sites



Annexe 4: Fiji 6th NR Consultation Report

INTRODUCTION:

As outlined in the Introduction section on the Approach to Developing the 6th National Report on information collection phase it included two rounds of consultations at national and divisional level. The first round was to collect the information of achievements of measures taken to achievement of Fiji's NBSAP Focal areas and specific objectives and the second round was to validate the draft 6 NR and for experts to assess Fiji's progress towards each of the national targets and related indicator.

The consultation also included field visits to conservation areas around Vanua Levu and Viti Levu by the Ministry of Environment and Ministry of Information, collecting stories and recording conservation achievements at community level. A video is also currently produced by the Ministry of Environment which will compliment this 6th National Report.

Acknowledging the support of the Honourable Minister for Environment and Waterways, Permanent Secretary and Director and staff for their support. Also, all participants who attended and those that contributed via emails providing information toward the report and the 6 NR consultants from IUCN and Nature-Fiji MareqetiViti.

CONSULTATION 1: INCEPTION MEETING (2-3 JUNE 2020), HOLIDAY INN - SUVA

Objectives:

1. Provide stakeholders of the Fiji 6NR reporting requirements and guidance on how their respective programmes and achievements could be reported under each national and global biodiversity targets.
2. working groups under biodiversity conservation thematic areas to discuss progress, achievements and assess implement effectiveness towards achievements of CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs).

Participants: (Attached) – The target participants were government, NGOs and civil society technical experts who work directly on NBSAP focal areas. They are also members of the different thematic areas of the implementation

Summary of Outcomes:

- Ministry of Environment presented to the stakeholders of the 6th National Report to CBD obligations and other related MEAs, the objectives and the importance of stocktaking Fiji's achievements, progress, gaps and obstacles and means to improve effectiveness.
- The national targets and Global Aichi Targets presented to stakeholders guide them in their contributions towards the national and global targets.
- Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 Focal Areas, objectives and Actions were presented to stakeholder to guide their discussions on their achievements to meet Fiji's national target.
- The following NBSAP Thematic Working groups were convened and they provided information or action taken by their respective government, NGOs and Civil Society groups towards achieving respective national targets. The groups were:
  - Terrestrial protected areas
  - Invasive Species Management
  - Species Working Group
  - Integrated Coastal Management – Sustainable Development Focal Area
  - Inshore Fisheries - Sustainable Development Focal Area
  - Wetlands Working Group - Sustainable Development Focal Area.

The above working groups submitted the updates in the matrix provided by the Ministry which was used to follow up and further inputs and follow up meetings with individual Ministries such as Climate Change Unit and Biosecurity Authority. The others were done online. The Ministry also organised a meeting with EIA consultants so they were presented the 6NR objectives so they could also contribute.

CONSULTATION 2: WESTERN DIVISION (2-3 JUNE 2020), HOLIDAY INN - SUVA

Objectives:

1. Provide stakeholders of the Fiji 6NR reporting requirements and guidance on how their respective programmes and achievements could be reported under each national and global biodiversity targets.
2. working groups under biodiversity conservation thematic areas to discuss progress, achievements and assess implement effectiveness towards achievements of CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs).

Participants: (Attached) – The target participants were government, NGOs and civil society technical experts who work directly on NBSAP focal areas. They are also members of the different thematic areas of the implementation.

Summary of Outcomes:

CONSULTATION 2: WESTERN DIVISION (11-12 JUNE 2020), RADISSON HOTEL - NADI

The consultation in the Western Division were conducted over 2-days and the groups were divided into government and NGOs, Women and Youth Groups and Provincial representatives. The groupings were done so we could limit numbers of participants because of the COVID 19 requirements.

Objectives:

1. Provide stakeholders of the Fiji 6NR reporting requirements and guidance on how their respective programmes and achievements could be reported under each national and global biodiversity targets.

2. Provide an opportunity for government, NGOs, private sector, women's groups, youth and community groups such as Yaubula Committees to present achievements and progress under Fiji's National Biodiversity Targets and of global CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs).

Participants: (Attached) – The target participants were government, NGOs and civil society, women's groups, youth groups, Yaubula Management Support Teams, Provincial administrators and representatives (Roko Tuis).

Summary of Outcomes:

- **Government/NGOs/Academic institutions Stakeholder:** The specific projects implemented by respective government sectors that attended were recorded under each NBSAP focal areas. Some key highlights were links with environment with battling NCDs caused by disturbance of nature, solar home systems, pest control, wastewater management, new fisheries strategic plan and ensuring linkages of national development plans with provincial and community plans.
- **Women and Youth Groups:** Their respective programs which included village and towns clean – up, waste to art programmes, youth climate actions, mangrove replanting, youth care clubs, gender participation e.g Women In Fisheries Network has been established in Fiji.
- **Provincial Stakeholders:** An update on LMMA wok in Ra, Ba and Nadroga which is progressing well, Establishment of YMSTs, Strategic Plans and community LMMA management plans established, mangrove replanting, participation for women in the R2R project activities. Also, some issues raised were large developments taking place within community land and coastal areas and conflicts faced. There seem to be low awareness of their role in the EIA processes which caused conflicts.

CONSULTATION 3: NORTHERN DIVISION (25-26 JUNE 2020), HOLIDAY INN - SUVA

The consultation in the Northern Division were conducted over 2-days and the groups were divided into government and NGOs, Women and Youth Groups and Provincial representatives. The groupings were done so we could limit numbers of participants because of the COVID 19 requirements.

Objectives:

3. Provide stakeholders of the Fiji 6NR reporting requirements and guidance on how their respective programmes and achievements could be reported under each national and global biodiversity targets.

4. Provide an opportunity for government, NGOs, private sector, women's groups, youth and community groups such as Yaubula Committees to present achievements and progress under Fiji's National Biodiversity Targets and of global CBD Aichi Biodiversity Targets (ABTs).

Participants: (Attached) – The target participants were government, NGOs and civil society, women's groups, youth groups, Yaubula Management Support Teams, Provincial administrators and representatives (Roko Tuis).

Summary of Outcomes:

- **Government/NGOs/Academic institutions Stakeholder:** The specific projects implemented by respective government sectors that attended were recorded under each NBSAP focal areas. Some key highlights were sustainable land management and soil conservation, climate change and flooding, impact of COVID and increase in home gardening, managing fruit flies, border control in Savusavu. Applied research on target economic species such as sea cucumber
- **Women and Youth Groups:** empowerment raining, coast care projects, mangrove restorations, disaster risk management, increase women participation at all levels, traditional knowledge, increase women participation in decision making.
- **Provincial Stakeholders:** An update on LMMA wok in Ra, Ba and Nadroga which is progressing well, Establishment of YMSTs, Strategic Plans and community LMMA management plans established, Cakaudrove, Macuata and Bua provincial festival and fundraising for resource management or Yaubula day was a success, review of a natural resource management plan reviewed.

VALIDATION WORKSHOP 1: (8th SEPTEMBER 2020), MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT - SUVA

The validation workshops main objective was to present to the stakeholders the data already collected measures or actions that the Ministry have collected and reported under each national target, strategies, objective and actions. It also allowed them to validate, discuss any gaps and then make some expert opinion on Fiji's progress in achieving national targets.

The process undertaken was titled "Nature-Walk Cafe" where participants rotated around the 6 NBSAP Focal Areas or Nature-Parks (improving our knowledge, protected areas, species management, invasive species, enabling environment and sustainable development). The process was a success in that participants were very active and participation level was high.

The facilitation team also designed a progress assessment voting system where participants individually voted for progress against each national target indicators and at the same time indicated the level of confidence of their category of assessment.

Objectives for all Validation workshops:

1. Provide national stakeholders an opportunity to review the draft Fiji 6NR report and validate the achievements reported under the Fiji NBSAP 2020-2025 focal areas such as Protected Area, Species Management, Management on Invasive Species, Sustainable Use and Mainstreaming Biodiversity.
2. Review and Update the draft Fiji's biodiversity profile, which includes biodiversity status and trends, pressures and drivers of change to biodiversity.
3. Provide input on measures to enhance implementation of the convention, implementation of Fiji's NBSAP and Action taken to achieve CBD Global Targets.

Participants: (Attached) – The target participants were government, NGOs and civil society technical experts who work directly on NBSAP focal areas.

Summary of Outcomes:

- Each of focal areas were validated and more information was collected by the technical experts based in Suva from government, NGOs and academic institutions.
- The participants also assessed progress towards each national targets and this were recorded and analysed. Results are presented in the main report under section 3.

VALIDATION WORKSHOP 2: WESTERN DIVISION (9th SEPTEMBER 2020), WESTIN HOTEL - NADI

The workshop was well attended with a good cross-section of stakeholders from government, NGOs and civil society. A lot of new information was collected under each focal areas in terms of achievements.

Participants: (Attached) – The target participants were government, NGOs and civil society technical experts who work directly on NBSAP focal areas.

Summary of Outcomes:

- Each of focal areas were validated and more information was collected by the technical experts based in Suva from government, NGOs and academic institutions. A lot of highlights from the LMMAs, the need to further engage women at all levels of natural resource management.
- The participants also assessed progress towards each national targets and this were recorded and analysed. Results are presented in the main report under section 3.

VALIDATION WORKSHOP 3: NORTHERN DIVISION (11TH SEPTEMBER 2020), NORTHERN HOTEL – LABASA.

The validation workshop had a good balance of women participation. A lot of the information already collected were confirmed and new ones were recorded. There were a lot o discussions on improving effectiveness and participants highlighted that community-level awareness and capacity building is key to increasing effectiveness at all levels. They also appreciated that the opportunity to learn more about Fiji's NBSAP and recommended more such interactions as they appreciate that their actions are not only contributing to their local context but at national and global level.

Participants: (Attached) – The target participants were government, NGOs and civil society technical experts who work directly on NBSAP focal areas.

Summary of Outcomes:

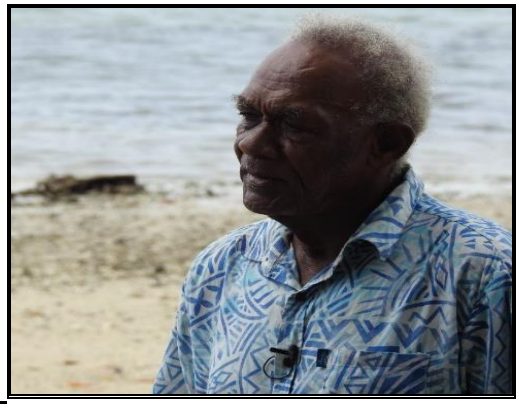
- Each of focal areas were validated and more information was collected by the technical experts based in Suva from government, NGOs and academic institutions.
- The participants also assessed progress towards each national targets and this were recorded and analysed. Results are presented in the main report under section 3.

PHOTOS

Western Division Photos

Northern Validation Workshop

Case Study Field photos



6th NR Consultations Participants List:

i. 6th NR First Inception Meeting on June 2 – June 3, 2020 in Suva City.

No.	Name of participant
1.	Fareea Ma
2.	Alisi Rabukawaqa
3.	Mark O Brien
4.	Nitesh Datt
5.	Jashika Lal
6.	Mohammed Shorab
7.	Shalendra Singh
8.	Dr. Chamindra
9.	Vani Koroisemanunu
10.	Joshua Waqanivalu
11.	Nanise T
12.	Alfred Ralifo
13.	Nunia Moko
14.	Kushal Raj
15.	Irene Miller
16.	Marika Tuiwawa
17.	Eliki Senivasa
18.	Sereima Koli
19.	Margy Vakalalabure
20.	Diana Ralulu
21.	Mafa Qiolele
22.	Mesulame Kuiladra
23.	Sarah Tawaka
24.	Etika Rupeni
25.	Eleni Tokaduadua
26.	Senivasa Waqairamasi
27.	Krystelle Suliano
28.	Mosese Sekikorolevu
29.	Michelle Baleikanacea
30.	Sandeep K Singh (Director of Environment
31.	Joshua Wycliffe (Permanent Secretary for Waterways and Environment

ii. 6th NR West Stakeholder Meeting June 11 – June 12, 2020 (Nadi)

No.	Name of participant
1.	Rakesh Kumar
2.	Faiyaz Ali
3.	Jemesa Delana
4.	Makereta Naisau
5.	Vinesh.K.Shavan

6.	Ruben. Tokona
7.	Kelera. Tokalau
8.	Seremaia. Bolaitamana
9.	Joel Kumar
10.	Engtesh Permal
11.	Unaisi Nabobo Baba
12.	Neomai T.Ravitu
13.	Rionesh Mua
14.	Luisa Molidrau
15.	Alice Ravia
16.	Raeed Roshan Ali
17.	Sagufta Salma Janif
18.	Aashilta Ashwani Ram
19.	Melania Tuidraki
20.	Monika R.Prasad
21.	Akanisi McIndoe
22.	Taito Rokobiau
23.	Sainiana Tinai
24.	Hansel Nacanieli R Vatuinaruku
25.	Makereta Naisau
26.	Kinisimere Toga
27.	Rusiate B Raidaveta
28.	Mosese Volavola
29.	Elena Vosailagi
30.	Lui Manuel
31.	Rusiate Valenitabua
32.	Laisiasa Mocevakaca
33.	Bikoca Burenivalu
34.	Makelesi Tavaiqia
35.	Jeremaia Namuira
36.	Sireli Mala
37.	Iosefo Vereivalu
38.	Etika Rupeni
39.	Senivasa Waqairamasi
40.	Krystelle Suliano
41.	Michelle Baleikanacea
42.	Senimili Baleicakau
43.	Kelera Kacikinakoro
44.	Joeal Kumar
45.	Sandeep K Singh (Director of Environment
46.	Joshua Wycliffe (Permanent Secretary for Waterways and Environment
47.	Dr Mahendra Reddy Hon Minister for Waterways and Environment

ii. 6th NR North Stakeholder Meeting June 25 – June 26, 2020 –(Labasa)

No.	Name of participant
1.	Ravinesh Ram
2.	Jreeta
3.	Mahendra Singh G
4.	Lote Rusaqoli
5.	Kalisi Waqa
6.	Joji Vuakaca
7.	Mere Makulau
8.	Jonacanani Ratutau
9.	Malelli Qera
10.	Asena Stener
11.	Josese Roko
12.	Sujendra Prasad
13.	John Koloba
14.	Opeti Vateitei
15.	Josefa Matagasau
16.	Waisake Vosaki
17.	Mosese Cagilaba
18.	Nomai Ditui
19.	Kinisimere Donu
20.	Adi Asenaca Loloma
21.	Adi Ramatai
22.	Meresiana Lite Dimaiqalau
23.	Mosese Mamafainoa
24.	Elenoa Kaisau
25.	Ranadiniceva Raluna
26.	Joni Vakamino
27.	Sakiusa Navakaroko
28.	Makario Tabuaruku
29.	Apenisa Seruitata
30.	Litiana Camaibau
31.	Cere Turaganivalu
32.	Etika Rupeni
33.	Senivasa Waqairamasi
34.	Krystelle Suliano
35.	Michelle Baleikanacea
36.	Senimili Baleicakau
37.	Mosese Sekikorolevu
38.	Sandeep K Singh (Director of Environment