

# JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

FIJI



COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

## INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

## **NOTE TO READERS**

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

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## LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)



## **CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES**

**Decision-Making:** Responsible body is Ministry of Commerce, Business Development & Investment. Coordinating bodies are Department of Fair Trading and Consumer Affairs and Department of Trade Measurement. Legislation and/or regulations include: Fair Trading Decree 1992, Fair Trading (amendment) Decree 1998, Commerce Act 1998, Consumer Credit Act 1999, Anti Dumping and Countervailing Act 1998, National and Trade Measurement Decree 1989, and Trade Standards and Quality Control decree 1992.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** The Pacific Islands Standards Congress has been scheduled for June 2002 and will be hosted by Fiji. The Ministry of Commerce, Business Development & Investment is currently the Secretariat for the Congress.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Staff of Dept. of Fair Trading and Consumer Affairs have undertaken relevant courses (in-country and overseas) and attended Trade Standard-related meetings in order to build capacity and up-grade professional skills. The Consumer Council of Fiji undertakes awareness raising. The Dept. is also currently developing a pamphlet on the Commerce Commission and the Consumer Credit Act.

**Information:** Available through personal interaction, various awareness-promoting material, quarterly progress reports, annual reports, etc., and continuous liaisons with the private sector.

**Research and Technologies:** Standards – scientific testing is often conducted in Australia, where specific samples are sent.

**Financing:** National budget.

**Cooperation:** Official Development Assistance (ODA) with Australia.

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**CHAPTER 2:INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC  
POLICIES - TRADE**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY

**Decision-Making:** In Fiji Poverty Study Report published in 1996 jointly by the Government and UNDP, the focus of the strategy for combating poverty are to improve the productive capacity of the people, to improve access to social services and to build capacities at the local level. Activities target institutional care and supervision for young persons and juveniles who are offenders or deemed to be at risk, are family assistance scheme for destitute, elder persons as well as housing assistance, and legal aid for divorcees; adoption of infants; care and protection of children. Income tax threshold is \$6,500.00. Education is tuition free up to form 5. NGO activities cover appropriate housing, assistance to school children, sustainable use of local resources and care of orphans. Government's current focus on poverty alleviation include: providing income earning opportunities; ensuring the poor have the means (capacity) to take advantage of advantage of job opportunities; and providing a safety net for those in greater need; and, improve access to education. Government's strategy to reduce poverty has been to provide jobs, to ensure the poor have the means to take advantage of job opportunities and to provide safety net for those who continue to experience severe deprivation. Non Governmental Organizations supplement the poverty alleviation programs undertaken by government.

**Programmes and Projects:** The programs for achieving these objectives include family assistance allowance; subsidizing education, health and housing costs; self-help projects; youth programs and provisions of assistance for micro and small business development. Other activities involve targeting institutional care and supervision for young persons and juveniles who are offenders or deemed to be at risk, a family assistance scheme for destitute, elderly persons as well as housing assistance, and legal aid for divorcees; adoption of infants; care and protection of children. The Income tax threshold is F\$6,500. Education is tuition-free up to form 5. NGO activities cover appropriate housing, assistance to school children, sustainable use of local resources and care of orphans. The Ministry of Education allows waivers of school fees for children whose parents jointly earn less than \$6,500 a year, under remission of fess scheme. The Ministry of health provides free outpatient care and hospital drugs, and other health services for the public on a low fee structure at hospitals and health clinics. The Public Rental Board (PRB) provides rental flats to low-income earners. The rental charges for the PRB flats range from \$9.00 to \$47.00 per week. Government has also begun to assist squatters through a squatter resettlement program. The Ministry of Youth organizes skills training for the unemployed and out-of-school youth through the National Youth Service and the Youth Employment Option Centre.

**Status:** Government's strategy to reduce poverty has been to provide jobs, improve access to education, to ensure the poor have the means to take advantage of job opportunities and to provide safety net for those who continue to experience severe deprivation.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There are also a number of agencies responsible for providing assistance related to small business. These include Small business Advisory Unit (SBAU), Micro Finance Unit (MFU), and the Ministry of Women and Culture. Small business Advisory Unit provides training and advisory services to those wishing to start or improve their businesses. The Micro-Finance Unit of the Ministry of Commerce, Business Development and Investment provides funds for the establishment and enhancement of existing small business aimed at generating employment and income activities for poor and disadvantaged households. The Ministry of Women and Culture provides assistance, advisory services and training under the Women's Social and Economic Development Scheme (WOSED).

**Information:** The scarcity of poverty related data is a major concern. Currently, comprehensive statistics on poverty are available every ten years through the Household and Income and Expenditure Surveys (HIES). The next HIES survey will be conducted in 2001. In the Fiji Poverty Study Report published in 1996 jointly by the Government and UNDP, the focus of the strategy for combating poverty are to improve the productive capacity of the people, to improve access to social services, and to build capacities at the local level.

**Research and Technologies:** Recommendations by the Poverty alleviation Task Force Committee spearheaded by the Ministry of National Planning to improve the quantity and quality of timely statistics include: conducting a 5 yearly Household and Income Expenditure Survey in consultation with relevant agencies, and explore other avenues of compiling more timely statistics.

**Financing:** The Department of Social Welfare provides grants for poverty alleviation projects (PAP), which are implemented by NGO's, the Department receives annual grants as part of the national budget. These projects are designed to improve the coping capabilities of people who are receiving Family Assistance Allowance. Expenditures have fluctuated largely because of fluctuations in budgetary allocations. A low expenditure in 2000 is attributed to the crisis of May 19, 2000.

**Cooperation:** The various programs of poverty alleviation administered by the Government and Non-Government organizations require an integration to ensure optimal use of resources. The programs also need to be monitored to target resources for development of the poor and those in genuine need. Assistance provided by NGO's are summarised as follows: school fee assistance and other educational needs of children of the poor; medical care assistance; grocery parcels and clothing; low cost housing and payment of rents; care for orphans and underprivileged, poor and rejected youth; assistance for rural women, deserted wives and single mothers; and, assistance for the elderly.

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## CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS

**Decision-Making:** Various line Ministries are involved in progress associated with this issue.

**Programmes and Projects:** Policy objectives include the following. a) Improve and strengthen household food security - at present, approximately 57% of the country's food as well as 60% of its protein and 64% of its fat, are imported. The Government's current policy emphasizing export-oriented agriculture may result in an increased dependence on imported food. An attempt should be made to modify the agriculture policy in order to increase domestic food production, with the aim of having more than 50% of the country's food supplied locally. The World Food Summit (Rome, 1996) has also provided an impetus for MAFFA to begin to redirect resources so that they also address food security issues. b) Improve and strengthen the promotion of local foods-nutrition and health education are continuing to promote local foods as better alternatives for good health (c.f. imported foods, which are generally processed and have a high salt, sugar and fat content, and minimal fibre). c) Greater emphasis on local food production with resources allocated to research and improved cultivars and marketing of local foods may improve their competitiveness. At the moment, the convenience offered by imported foods in terms of storability and ease in preparation (in an almost ready-to-eat state) make them more attractive and in some cases a more economical choice. However, the costs they incur in the long run may offset their current advantages. Support is provided for NGO activity for improved family nutrition. Incorporation of Food and Nutrition in the formal education system - the teaching of Food and Nutrition as a subject up to 7th form level and subject to examination, makes it possible to create awareness and impart knowledge so that young people can make informed food choices, hopefully for the better. It is encouraging to note that at this level both girls and boys are enrolled in the subject. There is a need, however, to ensure that the curriculum does contribute to a greater appreciation of local foods, and that it is geared to helping students avoid being victims of diet-related diseases. The curriculum needs to be specific to the country's current health problems.

**Status:** The current trend is to adopt a westernized dietary pattern. Over the years this consumption pattern has resulted in increasing dependence on overseas food supplies, partly due to changing production priorities domestically, with greater emphasis on cash and export crops and also, to some extent, insufficient domestic supplies. Wider exposure to exotic foods through mobility and marketing (advertisements, TV, etc.) have led to changing preferences, such that more and more people are preferring imported refined food compared to indigenous food. With the changing consumption patterns and also changing lifestyles, the emerging disease patterns are similar to those that are prevalent overseas, a major cause being a diet, which is rich in saturated and unsaturated fat and minimal fibre.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Awareness created in students can be reinforced if the Ministry of Education adopts supportive health promotion policies such as health and nutrition policy for schools, and ensures that schools provide a health promoting environment, e.g. school canteens. d) Deregulation Policy - there is an urgent need to ensure that food safety regulations and quality control standards are in place and are enforced. Otherwise, the country could be left open to being a dumping ground for food of inferior quality and safety.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** The annual national budget and various donor funds.

**Cooperation:** UNICEF support for family food production oriented projects within MAFFA has assisted the Ministry to refocus on domestic food production.

## **CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Decision-Making:** Ministry of Health through family planning programmes is active in this regard. Moreover health measures in place assure that labour force is in a state of optimal productive capacity.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** National priorities are to limit the rate of population growth so that it is compatible with sustained improvements in the standard of living, and to equip the population with a satisfactory range of skills for use in the workplace and society. The Government targets to maintain a lower fertility rate among teenagers. Provisional results of the 1996 population census indicate declining population growth rates overall and the lowest growth rate (10.8% per annum) between censuses since 1991, decrease in the proportion as well as the size of the overall rural population due to heavy Indian losses and a small Fijian increase, and intensified urbanization particularly for Fijians. Urban dwellers now comprise 46.4% of the total population.

**Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The Ministry of Health and Education through information dissemination and school curricula, respectively provide awareness on the various issues pertaining to demographic dynamics. The Department of Social Welfare and certain NGO's also play a crucial role in informing the public on such issues.

**Information:** At the time of the 1996 Census the total enumerated population of Fiji was 775,077 compared with 715,375 ten years earlier. The annual inter-censal growth rate was 0.8%, which is significantly less than the 1.97% p.a. increase recorded over the 1976-86 decade. This fall reflects the continuing decline in fertility apparent in earlier years – for Fijians a fall in the total fertility rate (TFR), the number of children the average women would bear during her lifetime if she were to follow the current pattern of age-specific childbearing, from 5.6 in 1996 to; for Indians from 5.4 to 2.5. The massive emigration, largely of the Indian ethnic group, soon after the 1987 coups. In 1996 there were 339 thousand Indians but their share of the total had fallen to 43.7% and will have declined further in the intervening period because of their greater propensity to migrate overseas. While migration levels had tended to stabilize during the 1990s, the political instability, following the events of the coup May 2000, has included an upsurge in the outflow such that the country continues to suffer from the past and the current loss of its more educated trained citizens.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** National Budget support and donor funds.

**Cooperation:** Major NGO's and donor agencies providing health care and budget support to the ministry of Health.

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## CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Health through various public health programmes is active in this regard. Moreover health measures in place ensure that the labour force is in a state of optimal productive capacity. NGOs are involved in the advocacy of hygiene, nutrition, cancer detection, diarrhoea control, family planning, HIV/STD prevention etc. at the community level. Other services provided are sight and hearing testing for school children, trauma counselling services for patients such as diabetic amputees or for people recovering from such events as cyclones or total house fires; blood collection and education of symptoms such as "the bends", which can paralyse Scuba Divers who do not adhere to safe diving practices. Most constructed structures are not accessible to persons with disabilities. Action and legislation for enabling and protecting persons with disabilities are needed in Fiji.

**Programmes and Projects:** As above.

**Status:** Infant mortality, neo-natal and maternal mortality rates have declined by 60% to 80% over the last two decades. Immunization coverage is over 90%. There were no cases reported in the last five years of major childhood communicable diseases (polio, diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus). However, TB is increasing, although not at a high rate. Information on sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), including gonorrhoea, syphilis, HIV and AIDS, is difficult to obtain due to unreported cases, but STDs are believed to be increasing. There were 34 reported cases of AIDS as of mid-1995, and one of these had developed through pregnancy. Non-communicable diseases are increasing. Cardiovascular diseases (for example, heart diseases and high blood pressure) and diabetes are major causes of death among adults in Fiji. Two thousand cases of malnutrition were reported in 1995. Most cases were either moderate or mild and only 1% was diagnosed as severe. Goitre is a relatively small problem. Anaemia is a significant problem, particularly among pregnant women. The Government through programmes at St. Giles Hospital, the Fiji Police Force, and the National Centre is addressing substance abuse for Health Promotion.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Various training centres for nurses, doctors and other medical professionals are available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** The annual national budget and donor funds.

**Cooperation:** WHO and other international agencies assist in various public health programmes.

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## CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT

**Decision-Making:** The main decision-making institutions for human settlement development are the Ministry for Urban Development, Housing and Environment, the Housing Authority and the Public Rental Board. The Government has also recently reviewed planning and infrastructure standards to make them more relevant to the needs of the poor.

**Programmes and Projects:** Since the Earth Summit, the Ministry for Urban Development, Housing and Environment has reviewed its Housing and Urbanization Policy and a new set of policies on housing and urbanization was adopted in 1995. The main thrust of the new policy is the provision of necessary infrastructure, concessions and support as well as administrative and legislative mechanisms for the provision of affordable housing to various income groups. The Government adopted a National Squatter Policy in 1995, which provides for a two-pronged approach to the squatter problem in Fiji. Upgrading of squatter colonies in consultation with landowners is recommended and policing is also recommended to contain the growth of squatter areas. The Government encourages the use of innovative design in the planning of land subdivision for housing and the use of building materials other than concrete and timber for low-income housing. For the destitute and disabled, that include the elderly, the deserted, widows and single mothers, the Government has been providing grants to "Housing Assistance and Relief Trusts", an NGO, for accommodation of these poor people. Private sector involvement in housing is encouraged, and it is more active in the provision of serviced sites for the upper income group. In the provision of housing, consultation with women and youths is undertaken. The provision of adequate shelter for all its people remains a challenge for the Government.

**Status:** Public sector housing is provided through the Housing Authority and the Public Rental Board. The former is involved in a sites and services programme as well as mortgage financing.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** Financing of housing projects has been possible through the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) as well as the local capital market. The national annual budget allocations.

**Cooperation:** See under **Financing**.

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## CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

**Decision-Making:** The Sustainable Development Bill gives effect to the compulsory process of Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) by all Government ministries, departments and agencies for all proposed developments, undertakings or activities which are likely to have an adverse effect on human health, society or the environment. All EIA reports are to be submitted to the Environmental Assessment Administrator of the Department of Environment for an assessment; the recommendations are subsequently submitted to the National Council for Sustainable Development for approval. The Government's document "Opportunities for Growth", published in 1993, contains policies and strategies for sustainable development. Based on the recognition of the twin requirements of a high quality of life and a better environment, the Government's policy on sustainable development includes ensuring that renewable resources are used in a sustainable manner, ensuring that environmental management is an integral part of the planning and development process, strengthening of institutional capacity for sound environment management, use of environmental impact assessment studies for new project proposals, and ensuring that environmental expenditures are prioritized on the basis of best estimates of their contribution to socio-economic development.

**Programmes and Projects:** The formulation of the Sustainable Development Bill (SDB) is a project on its own that was funded by the ADB. The SDB would provide the legal framework within which planning and decision-making authorities would ensure that natural resources, as raw materials, would be utilised for development in a sustainable manner. Under the various international and regional conventions that Fiji has ratified, national projects have been developed that would ensure that the concept of sustainable development is adopted by all sectors of the community. Under the Convention on Biological Diversity, the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan is in its final stages. Under the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Programme enabled assessment studies on the vulnerability of coastal areas to potential sea level rise and their adaptation of protective measures and controls. Under the various waste management conventions, codes of environmental practices and waste management plans have been introduced to minimise the adverse effects of developments on the environment.

**Status:** Fiji is at a cross-road whereby development has been taking place over a long period of time without the appropriate level for environmental consideration, and is now committed to incorporate sustainable development requirements. The Department of Environment has not yet attained the capacity to ensure a balance in decisions on development and environment. While the SDB is not yet passed, Fiji has no environment legislation. The SDB will require the formation of Environment Management Units (EMUs) within line ministries, hence forthwith allowing the formulation of environmental management policies in those ministries that manage natural resources.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The Department of Environment do not yet have the full capacity to undertake all activities necessary to integrate development and environment in the decision-making processes. It is understaffed to be able to develop, implement, monitor and enforce policies. It currently plays a coordinative and advisory role, particularly without an environmental legislation. The EMUs are being established in some line ministries, and with the appropriate policies developed in these ministries, they would be able to ensure environment management in their respective areas of responsibilities. The inclusion of environment in primary and secondary level education is being done through the Education Commission and the Curriculum Development Unit of the Ministry of Education. Trainings have included programmes on training the trainers amongst teachers and adults in local communities. These trainings have focussed on sustainable use of natural resources for subsistence and commercial purposes. The University of the South Pacific has Degree and Diploma courses on environmental science. Trainings through international and regional workshops and study courses have been undertaken as various institutions introduce them. In terms of environmental awareness, the Department of Environment has been conducting annual campaigns that promote the knowledge of sustainable development amongst the public and private sectors, e.g. National Environment Week and Clean Up the World Campaign. Other government departments and NGOs have been involved.

**Information:** There are various line ministries that manage the use of natural resources, and also coordinate the development of national policies, strategies and plans. These ministries have databases of their own which focus on the current state of the resources they manage. The practice is the information they have is shared with each other when requested. Regarding environmental data, the Department of Environment is in the process of developing a database that would store all relevant data. A network would be developed in the process with the line ministries to enable the constant updating of the data.

**Research and Technologies:** in 1993 its Cabinet endorsed Fiji's National Environment Strategy (NES). The NES was the outcome of an ADB funded project that prepared the State of the Environment Report (SOE). This involved an extensive research/study that focused on an inventory of all natural resources in Fiji, their utilisation in development, and the associated problems, e.g. pollution, land degradation, erosion, etc. The NES provided a framework whereby Government could establish institutions, policies, legislation, etc. to address the problems highlighted in the SOE. The concept of sustainable development was introduced through the SOE as a basis for integrating environment conservation with the development process.

**Financing:** The national budget currently makes provision for the daily operational needs of the Department of Environment. This enables the Department to develop local and national programmes of activities to address environmental issues. However, donors through relevant projects provide actual funds required for the implementation of such activities.

**Cooperation:** This has mainly been through bilateral/regional/international cooperation and agreements, conventions, Official Development Assistance (ODA), i.e. bilateral cooperation with Australia and New Zealand; regional cooperation through the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); internationally through conventions on biodiversity, climate change, waste management, etc.

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## CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

**Decision-Making:** An Ozone Depletion Section (ODS) was formed within the Department of Environment in 1995. Its mandate includes the analysis of future demands of ODSs, administrative functions, funding and other technical and audit processing for data collection, to ensure compliance with standards and codes of practice, and accreditation of services. A Climate Change Unit was formed in the Department of Environment to coordinate Fiji's inventory process and reporting, and related studies to produce integrated resource management plans for coastal areas. A Consultative Committee on ODS was also established with the mandate to coordinate the reporting on annual use, import and storage of controlled substances. The Committee includes representatives from the Government, the Fire Control Sector, the Motor Industry, Tertiary Institutions, the Hotel Industry, the Shipbuilding Industry, and the Builders Industry. The Department of Environment has formulated a draft Sustainable Development Bill (a comprehensive, integrative environmental and resource management legislation) inclusive of a section on Climate Change and Ozone Depletion. However, the Ozone Depletion Section was taken out in order to enable quick passage through the legislative process.

**Programmes and Projects:** The GEF-funded Pacific Islands Climate Change Assistance Project (PICCAP) will assist Fiji, as with other island countries, to meet its national reporting obligations under the FCCC. The Climate Change project has involved an assessment of the vulnerability of areas where the impacts of sea level rise are likely to be greatest, using geographical, social and economic indicators. The end of 1997 developed strategies for adaptation of high risk areas.

**Status:** Air pollution is a growing national problem. The principal causes of air pollution are industries, odour nuisances from factories, emissions from vehicles, and soot and smoke from the sugar and timber mills. Smoky vehicle exhausts are amongst the most common and offensive forms of air pollution and is caused mainly by vehicles using diesel fuel. Although offenders could be prosecuted under the Public Health Act and the air pollution provisions of the Traffic Regulations, the political and bureaucratic commitment to enforce those laws does not exist.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Public awareness of pollution is relatively low in Fiji. This problem however cannot be solved by legislation alone and requires public education to increase awareness about pollution and to change behaviour patterns.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** The GEF Funding and the National Budget. The ODS Unit coordinates the licensing and training of personnel in Government and industry. Tertiary institutions undertake training of government and industrial workers. The Consultative Committee instigates liaison work in the industrial sector.

**Cooperation:** The Montreal Protocol was ratified in 1989, and the London Amendment was ratified in 1994. Fiji ratified the Framework Convention on Climate Change (FCCC) in 1993 and is in the process of complying through undertaking the US Country Studies Programme. This involves studies of greenhouse gas sources and sinks. At the local and community level, non-government organizations play an important role in the proper management of our environment through the implementation of various projects and programmes. Other governments and regional and international institutions also play an important role in the funding and implementation of these projects.

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## CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

**Decision-Making:** The Government takes a leading role to consult line ministries on their views and policies related to resource management. The National Environment Strategy recommended the formation of Environmental Management Units in line ministries to be responsible for resource use management. The Ministry of Agriculture has drafted a National Land use Plan project. Procedures to regulate natural resources extraction are being established including monitoring and audit of extraction operations. Several inventory of natural resources have been carried out: on forestry by the Department of Forestry, on minerals by the Department of Minerals, and on land use capabilities by the Agricultural Department. A National Resource Management Plan has been formulated and implemented. A risk assessment of areas prone to flooding and exposure to cyclonic effects has been done in order to mitigate measures to develop a preventive approach. Susceptible to external influences and increasingly attractive to tourists, the country is open to exploitation for profit and consequently more prone to degradation. In this regard, the Government has provided funding for the establishment of the Sigatoka Sand Dunes national park.

The current administration and institutional framework responsible for resources allocation and management is highly sectionalized and are governed by the following legislations; 1] Land conservation and improvement Act, 2] Land Development Act, 3] Drainage Act, 4] Irrigation Act, 5] Town and Country Planning Act, 6] Crown land Act, 7] Native Land Trust Act, 8] Agriculture Landlord and Tenants Act, 9] Mining Act, 10] National Trusts Act, 11] Forest Act, 12] Forest Decree and the Sustainable Development Bill [ still in parliament for enhancement ], will bring the various piece meal legislation together and also proposes the implementation of a National Resources Management Plan. Fiji does not have a National Use Policy and Plan, but in 1999 a review on the national Rural Land Use Policy was carried out with the assistance of the Pacific German (GTZ) Forestry / Agro forestry Program which results in a coherent set of Rural Land Use Policies documented and yet to be endorsed by government to guide rural land development and management. In August 2000, the Department of Land Planning and Development was created to fulfil MAFFA's vision for an effective and efficient coordination and partnership with other very important stakeholders such as the Native Land Trust Board, the Lands Department, non-government agencies, landowners and tenants for quality decisions in planning, development and management of their land resources.

### **Programmes and Projects:**

*Participatory Land Use Plan:* The Department of Lands Resources and Development took the initiative to establish a participatory approach to land use planning as a pilot project in Bemana Tikina/District, Nadroga. This would be the basis of future integrated land use planning and the empowerment of the people to make quality decision in the uses of their land resources. The program is a joint effort between the Extension Division of MAFF, Fijian Affairs Board, Native Land Trust Board and other stakeholders. The Ultimate aim is to establish land husbandry groups or land stewardship to oversee that their land resources are efficiently and effectively developed and managed.

*Integrated Agriculture Program:* The program has been endorsed by MAFFA and carried out as a pilot project with assistance from Regional Development, Cooperative Dept, Health Dept., Native Land Trust Board, Fijian Affairs Board, Environment Dept. and other stakeholders focusing on bottom up or participatory approach to agriculture land development and management.

*Pacific Network Soil Research Program / Transfer of sustainable Land Management Technologies:* Under this program the Department of Land Resources Planning and Development in collaboration with the Extension and the Research Division of MAFFA have researched and identified low cost sustainable land management technologies to minimise soil erosion or land degradation on marginal to steep lands that are under agriculture. It involves the use of vetiver grass and pineapple with the inclusion of other leguminous species such as calliandra, gliricidia and etc, on contour as hedge to arrest soil erosion and nutrient leaching.

*Agro Forestry Program:* This program that involves the use of leguminous species to minimize soil loss and improve soil fertility especially on land that is susceptible to erosion or have been degraded.

**Status:** The resource base of nature-based tourism in Fiji is vast and consists of the sum total of Fiji's natural resources. In particular, the sea and marine life, as well as the ecology of inland areas and settlements, provide major attractions for visitors. The country needs an integrated or a holistic approach to land resources planning, development and management, which will effectively coordinate the optimization of land use. This is in consultation with relevant authorities and stakeholders in order to improve the sustainable development and management of Fiji's land resources. There is a need to improve, the public understanding on the various legislation that pertains to land, land development and conservation. A regulatory framework for the sustainable development and management of rural land resources is long overdue. Under resourcing by Government, for line ministries having responsibility for agriculture, forestry and land use in general, there is a need for a political will to put in practice the proposed National Rural Land Use Policy and Plan.

**Capacity Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Capacity building is provided through volunteer organizations such as Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), VSO and the Peace Corps. Capacity building through the GTZ/ Pacific Forestry and Agro forestry Program, International Board for Soil Research and Management Program, Asian Productivity Organization, United Nation Environment Program, International Soil Conservation Committees, Land Care Research Institute of New Zealand and volunteer organizations such as Foundation of the People of the South Pacific (FSP) and the World Wide Fund for nature (WWF). However, expertise in land use planning and environment planning, management and enforcement are still below critical mass in the responsible line ministries. South Pacific Geoscience (SOPAC) also assists line ministries on human resource development specifically on Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing. SOPAC also assists Government ministries in software and hardware development. The Department of Land Resource Planning and Development with the assistance of the Fijian Affairs Board, Native Land Trust Board, Cooperative Dept. and the Forestry Dept. carries out awareness and education to schools, tertiary institutions, land owning units, villages and other stakeholders, on the sustainable uses of their land, water and forest resources. The resource material available consists of leaflets, posters, videos and demonstration plots established on farmers field.

**Information:** Department of Land Resource Planning and Development; Forestry Department; Ministry of Agriculture; Town and Country Planning; Lands Department; National Planning; Environment Department; Ministry of Finance, and Regional Development.

### **Research and Technologies:**

*Soil Loss Research and Development of Sustainable Land Management Technologies:* The international Board for Soil Research and Management (IBSRAM)/ Pacificland Network Program was established in 1991 to assist in the soil loss research as well as develop and disseminate appropriate technologies for their sloping agricultural lands. The program is a joint effort between the Department of Land Resources Planning and Development, Extension and Research Division of MAFFA. The technologies identified were being assessed against the farmer's current practices, which include vetiver grass strips, and pineapple hedgerows that were selected collaboratively by researchers and farmers.

*Agro Forestry Program:* An agro forestry project was set up in 1991 with Ministry of Agriculture Extension Division and then the Land Use Section of DLRPD to assist clients adopt agro forestry practice advocated.

Several regional organizations that included the German Technical Corporation and the Pacific Regional Agricultural Programme assisted the Department of Land Resources Planning and Development with agro forestry research works. Work on *Erythrina subumbrans* as a fertility improvement species as tested included surveys of traditional agro forestry practices in Fiji of which information was gathered and documented to assist the Department of Land Resources Planning and Development provide a range of technologies that could be adapted to meet the conservation needs of the people.

**Financing:** Fiji Governments national budget; International Board for Soil Research and management – PACIFICLAND; Pacific German Regional Forestry Project (PGFRP); Pacific Regional Agricultural Program (PRAP); Foundation of the People of the South Pacific (FSP), and World Wide Fund (WWF).

**Cooperation:** The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in 1992 and ratified in 1993. Fiji is also a party to the Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment in the South Pacific Region and Related Protocols (SPREP Convention) and to the Convention on the Conservation of Nature (Apia Convention). Fiji is considering becoming a party to the CITES and Ramsar Conventions. Regional Corporation is also with the German Technical Corporation (GTZ) and Land care Research Institute of New Zealand.

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## CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION

**Decision-Making:** Major initiatives taken towards sustainable forest management include Fiji Forest Sector Review and its incorporation into the National Forestry Action Plan, re-inventory of the indigenous forest, installation of the Geographic Information System, and Fiji Logging Code of Practice.

**Programmes and Projects:** Government has over the years put in place a number of initiatives one of which is the development of a Native Forest Management Pilot Project in Nakavu, Namosi to assess the impact of different intensities of logging on the regenerative capacity of the forests. The project is aimed at maintaining the composition and structure of the natural forest, stimulating growth and natural regeneration of remaining trees, stimulating an increased yield of timber and other useful forest products and to ensure active participation of landowners. The project is undertaken in collaboration with the German Government. In pursuit of sustainable forest management, Government had also formulated the National Code of Logging Practice to provide practical rational guidance to Forest Officers and Purchasers involved in logging operations with a view of minimising the adverse impact of these operations and protecting undergrowth. It also provides a basis for safe conditions in so far as environmental and operational matters are concerned. The Code also specifies uniform safety standards and prescription, which must be met or followed in any planned logging operation. Although the code is currently in force, its enforcement is somewhat inadequate due to resource constraints faced by the Forestry Department. The Forestry Department has been undertaking a reforestation programme, carried out in the fourteen stations across Fiji. The programme had aimed to increase Fiji's hardwood plantation estate to 85,000 hectares by the year 2010 in order to meet local demand for timber and to maintain a sustainable export trade in timber products. The plantation reforestation programme is now being taken over by Fiji Hardwood Corporation Ltd (FHCL), which aims to establish 2000 hectares of hardwood on an annual basis. Also, the Kyoto Protocol will be an important guiding agreement on the trading of forestry products in future. The protocol covers emissions trading, joint implementation, umbrellas, the clean development mechanisms and the use of sinks. Fiji as an open economy needs to be fully aware of the implications of the protocol and the trading opportunities it creates.

**Status:** Fiji has a total area of 18,390m<sup>2</sup> and comprises islands of which 100 are inhabited and supporting a population of 783,550 (end 1994), with a population growth well below 2% (Bureau of Statistics 1990). The largest islands are Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, which together contain over 90% of the population and comprise 87% of the land area. The islands lie between 178°E and 179°W longitude and between 16° and 23°S latitude just inside the tropical belt. They are largely volcanic, of varying geological age and of moderately fertile soil, with fairly steep dissected topography in the forest areas. After several thousands of years of human occupation and over a century of European influence, approximately 0.8 million hectares (ha) or about 47% of the country remains under natural forest cover. Reforestation together with afforestation has brought some 90,000 ha of long deforested land back into production. A small area totalling about 42,000 ha is under mangrove forest. Fiji thus has a total land area of 1.83 million hectares under forest. Broadly speaking, extensive areas of the drier parts of the two main islands have suffered deforestation. Consequently, the indigenous forest cover is more than 50% in the wetter parts of the country. Indigenous forests occupy 797,000 ha, making up 47% of the land and include 253,000 ha of unexploited production forest on which the hardwood industry is presently based. This area comprises 31% of all forests. Eighty-nine percent of the unexploited production forest and 84% of all Fijian forest are under communal ownership. By the end of 1994, Fiji Pine Limited's fully stocked area of pine stood at 43,686 ha with plans to extend this area to 55,000 ha by 2006. By the end of 1996, the Forestry Department had established 51,004 ha of hardwood plantations of mainly mahogany. It is planned to plant 85,000 ha by 2010.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Strengthening innovation management capacity and innovative technology is central to the economic development of Fiji, especially for enhancing the efficiency, effectiveness and productivity of existing business and in promoting new businesses. Training and education are integral to the development of the sector. The Forestry Training Center in Lololo and the Environment Division in Colo-i-Suva conduct forestry training and environmental education respectively. A new Forestry Training School will soon be established in Colo-i-Suva. Awareness programmes such as Arbor Day,

mangrove ecosystem and foreshore protection are undertaken to raise public awareness of the importance of our forest resources. Forest data such as plantation inventory, plantation area, logged area etc. are stored in a fully integrated Forest Management Information System. The Department continued to undertake research on wood technology, silviculture, and natural forest management and timber utilization.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** Multiple use natural forests are those natural forests used for timber production, catchments protection, wild life habitat, forestry recreation and amenity uses and for minor forest products. Protection forests are areas of highly sensitive forests by virtue of their topography, climate, soil type or a combination of these factors. Timber harvesting or other forestry operations in protection forests are restricted to minor forest products such as the harvesting of mangroves for fuel wood and poles. Preserved forests are those areas of natural forests that are maintained in an undisturbed natural condition and for the preservation of specific biological values. It includes Forestry Department's nature reserves / other legally established reserves and other areas of known unique, rare character under consideration for formal preservation, such as those areas being considered for world heritage, nature reserves or national park status. There are about thirty four (34) recorded indigenous species of commercial values, with *Dakua makadre*, *kauvula*, *kaudamu*, *damanu* and *sacau* being the most popular. In 1998, total log production from indigenous forests amounted to 134,327 cubic metres. The timber is sold sawn or turned into veneer or plywood. The sustainable management of our indigenous forest resources is crucial for the sustainability of this limited resource. Continual review of timber concession agreements, logging licensing agreements, and issuance of logging licenses is undertaken to ensure the rational utilisation of our indigenous forest resources. Log supply from natural forests is usually determined by the number of licenses issued in a year, either on annual basis, occasional casual (monthly) or through concessions. However, the supply of logs to sawmills is determined mostly by licenses that are issued on annual basis. In 1999, the total number of licenses issued was 127, including 4 offered under concessions.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** Fiji has just become a member of ITTO. Fiji has continued to promote sustainable forest management both through domestic policy development and at international forum. Fiji is committed to the effective implementation of the outcome of UNCED, having signed and ratified the International Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Fiji is a member of the International Tropical Timber Organization (ITTO), which means Fiji is totally committed to the sustainable management and development of indigenous tropical forests. A resolution was passed by ITTO that by the year 2000, all tropical timber and wood based commodities that are to be traded amongst member countries be certified, signifying that the extracts were from sources managed under sustainable regimes.

The Department of Environment is entrusted with the overall responsibility of looking after Fiji's environment. The Department grew from being a mere unit in 1989 (Environmental Management Unit) to becoming a fully-fledged Department in 1992. The Department is responsible for better co-ordination, effective formulation and implementation of national environmental policies in order to properly manage Fiji's environment. The Department is also responsible for providing advice to other government departments on environmental issues, co-ordinating environmental impact assessment of development projects, developing environmental education and awareness programmes and maintaining an environmental information database. As part of its programme, the Department undertakes environmental awareness programmes to raise peoples understanding, awareness and concerns about the environment. These programmes are often conducted in partnership with other governments, non-governments, international and regional organizations who in most instances fund such programmes. Major donors include the United Nations Development Programme through the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP). Non Government Organizations (NGOs) also play a crucial role in developing, applying and disseminating information to the community because of their networking strength at the local level. These include the South Pacific Action Committee for Human Ecology and the Environment

(SPACHEE), Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific (FSP), Greenpeace, and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), and Wainimate Group.

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## CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

(United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification part 1 article 1 (a) “desertification” means land degradation in arid, semi arid and dry sub human areas resulting from various factors including climatic variations and human activities. Fiji is a Signatory of the UNCCD and has ratified the convention.)

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Forests and ALTA (MAFFA) is the focal point for the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) in Fiji. The convention focuses on land degradation and drought mitigation. The Land Conservation Board is the national coordinating body which is charged to exercise general supervision over land and water resources under the Land Conservation Improvement Act 1953. The Land Use Section of the Department of Land Resources Planning and Development of MAFFA provides the technical and support services in the area of land use planning, development and management and drought mitigation under the Drainage Act, 1961 and Irrigation Act, 1974. The Environment Department is the focal point of the United Nation Convention (UNCBD) and their principals are interrelated to the UNCCD.

### **Programmes and Projects:**

*Pacificland/ IBSRAM Network Program:* Fiji is part of the Pacificland Network Program organized by the International Board for Soil Research and Management, which began in 1992. The program was initially funded by the Asian Development Bank and 2 later years by Ausaid, the program ended in December 1999. But continued with internal funding by the Fiji government.

*Pacific Regional Agriculture program:* In 1993 the PRAP/ European Union Project 1 – for Farming System in low lands assisted the Land Use Section of LRPD with the agro forestry research by using *Erythrina subumbrans* as a fertility improvement species. The research was carried out on acid upland soils. The program also collated information on traditional agro forestry practices in Fiji.

*Pacific German Regional Agro Forestry Program:* The Fiji/German Project supported agro forestry in Fiji under the German bilateral program from 1987-1994. The project focuses on the agro forestry practice with alley cropping and moved to regional multi-lateral program in 1995. The focus of the GTZ Regional Program is Sustainable Forestry Management and Sustainable Land Management with inclination towards National Land Use Policy and Plan.

*Awareness and Training:* The Land use Section of LRPD, the Research and Extension Division of MAFFA, have jointly carried out awareness and training on land degradation, disseminating information and transferring of low cost sustainable land management technologies for sloping land farmers as well as school children and groups in various communities in Fiji for land stewardship.

*Transfer of Sustainable Land Management Technologies:* The result of the IBSRAM/Pacificland on farm research program has been transferred to farmers throughout the Central, Western and Northern Divisions. Recognizing the effectiveness of the vetiver grass, pineapples included with leguminous and nitrogen fixing tree species such as calliandra, erythrina and gliricidia are planted on contours to act as living barriers, nutrient pumps as well as hedgerows.

*Drought Mitigation:* In 1998, Fiji experienced the worst drought since rainfall records began in 1942, it experience lower rainfall than usual in the months of October to April (wet season). Damages to agricultural crops were estimated at US\$10 million. Food and Agriculture Organizations assisted with planting material and inputs while the Government of Finland supported the drought mitigation, preparedness training and awareness program. The government of Fiji assisted the sugar cane farmers by providing US\$21 million for crop rehabilitation program.

*Climate Change and Variability Scenario Generation/Modeling:* Climate change is likely to have a substantial and widespread impact on Pacific Island Countries by affecting sectors as varied as health, coastal infrastructure, water resources, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. In August 1999 the South Pacific Regional Environmental Program (SPREP) with the assistance of the International Global Change (IGCI) (Waikato University) produced a climate change computer-modeling program known as the PACCLIM (Pacific Climate Change) proto-type model. The computer modeling is used to create scenarios to predict climate change and sea level rise in the Pacific. IGCI, SPREP and the World Bank funded the creation of the FIJICLIM an offshoot of the PACCLIM, a computer modeling scenario generator to be used to predict climate changes and sea level rise in Fiji.

**Status:** There is an urgent need for the establishment of a country team with representatives from various stakeholders involved in land development to assess and monitor desertification/land and drought related problems of our fragile ecosystems. The country team or a consultant is to be engaged to formulate a National Action plan. Given the importance of NAP in the convention and the need to put in place policies and strategies for the efficient and effective planning, development and management of Fiji's land and water resources. There is a need for a present land use survey to be carried out in Fiji to enable the Department of Land Resource Planning and Development to determine the land area already in use and the potential areas left for various uses. This information will also be used as basis of the formulation and implementation of a National Rural Use Policy and Plan for the country. The land Conservation and Improvement Act of 1953 needs to be amended to include it's human and financial resources to be able to function efficiently.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** A one-off training opportunity is provided through the Chinese Government whereby a Department of Land Resources planning and Development staff is currently undergoing training on Desertification Control in China. The United Nation Environment Programme (UNEP), Asian Productivity Organization (APO), the International Soil Conservation Conference Committee (ISCO) and the United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) has been very supportive in providing training and workshop programs in land resources planning, development and management issues. South Pacific Geosciences Commission (SOPAC) also assists Government Ministries on human resource development specifically on Geographical Information System and Remote Sensing. SOPAC also assist Government Ministries in software and hardware development. Departments of Land Resources Planning and Development have prepared posters, leaflets, manuals, video clips with the assistance of the Pacific German (GTZ) Regional Forestry/ Agro forestry Program and Government of Fiji.

**Information:** The Department of Land Resources Planning and Development of MAFFA has Geographical Information such the soils, land capacity clarification, climate, forests cover, cadastral and topographical information. It is a member of the Fiji Land Information Council with members including the Lands Dept., Native Land Trust Board, Regional Development etc...) it also collaborates with SOPAC in accessing information on satellite on land and water resources.

### **Research and Technologies:**

*Land Capability Classification:* A Land Capability survey was carried out by DLRPD to assess the capability of the area to sustain

*Participatory Rural Appraisal:* A rapid survey methodology used to gather information for needs and skills analysis. The methodology is the basis of the bottom up or participatory approach to agriculture land development and management programs, a system that the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forests and ALTA have adopted to empower the people to make good land decisions.

*Sustainable Land Management Technologies:* A research program carried out by the Department of Land Resources Planning & Development to assess soil loss and the use of low cost sustainable land management technologies to minimize soil erosion and degradation on marginal to steep lands that are under agriculture. The low cost sustainable land management technologies identified consists of the use of vetiver grass and pineapple

planted across the slope to arrest soil erosion and nutrient leaching. The research project also included the use of leguminous species to improve degraded lands.

*Combination of Sustainable Land Management and Sustainable Forestry Management:* The Department of Lands Resources Planning and Developing and the Forestry Department of MAFFA have integrated the sustainable forestry management technologies with the assistance of the Pacific Regional German (GTZ) Forestry/Agro Forestry Program. The program is carried out in collaboration with the Extension Division of MAFFA, Fijian Affairs Board, Native Land Trust Board, Fiji Forest Industry, Land owners and other stakeholders, by using Drawa Block, an area that covers more than 1,000 hectares of virgin forest in Vanua Levu as a pilot project area. The integrated planning, development and management of the land resources will be the basis of future agriculture and forestry land development.

**Financing:** Government National Budget; International Board for Soil Research (Asian Development Bank and Ausaid); Pacific German Regional Program (GTZ); and, Global Environment Facility through the United Nation Development Program.

**Cooperation:** United Nation Convention for climate change (UNFCC), United Nation Convention for Bio-Diversity (UNCBD), United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) and the South Pacific Community (SPC) have worked very closely with Fiji in its quest to minimize desertification/land degradation.

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## CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

**Decision-Making:** Fiji has various legislation as listed in chapter 12, which deals with various aspects of land resources planning, development and management. But the Land Conservation Board with its guiding principals entrenched in the Land Conservation Improvement Act of 1953 has provisions for the overall supervision of the land and water resources of Fiji. The LCB members consist of the Ministry of Agriculture, Native Land Trust Board, Fiji Sugar Corporation, Forestry Department, Public Works, Land User Representatives and is under the responsibility of MAFFA. The Board needs an urgent overhaul to be efficient and effective. The Sustainable Development Bill (still in parliament for enactment) is an overarching legislation, which will bring the various legislation together, it, also has provisions for a Natural Resources Management Plan.

**Programmes and Projects:** The program and projects are similar to the Chapter 12 including the reforestation and afforestation program by the Forestry Department.

**Status:** With the increase in need for cash by the rural communities of Fiji, more land are now in demand for development and the only option available is the uplands which are highly susceptible to erosion and other forms of land degradation. Issues that are of importance to the sustainability of upland farming systems are land tenure, small holding, pressure on the production base, weak institutional infrastructure, infra-structure development, agro-deforestation, declining soil fertility and erosion. If Fiji wishes to see a sustainable development of its uplands then these issues and constraints need to be addressed. Fiji as it faces the new millennium has a crucial challenge to face such is to devise a strategic development plan (National Land Use and Policy) that will ensure the long-term sustainability of agricultural, development, particularly the upland farming systems.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Capacity building is provided through the assistance of Asian Productivity Organization, Pacific German Regional Forestry and Agro forestry Program, Land Care Crown Research Institute, Ausaid, United Nation Convention to Combat Desertification/Land Degradation, United Nation Convention for Bio-Diversity but the expertise in land use planning, environment planning, management and enforcement is still below critical mass in responsible line ministries. The Department of Land Resources of Land Resources Planning and Development has leaflets, posters, video, on farm demonstration, plots and it carries out farmer, school children, tertiary students, training and awareness program with the assistance of the Pacific German Regional Forestry/Agro forestry Program.

**Information:** The Department of Land Resources Planning and Development of MAFFA has a Geographical Information System in place and it has various information such as the soils, land capability classification, forest cover, cadastral, topographical and climate data to be able analyze and provide quality information for land users to make efficient and effective decisions of their land resources development and management It is also a member of the Fiji Land Information Council and has access to other information available with the Forestry Department, Land Department, Native Land Trust Board, Regional Development and etc.

**Research and Technologies:** Technologies for sustainable mountain include biological and physical or mechanical measures Widely promoted biological measures are forestry, agro forestry (e. g. Vetiver contour strips) The choice of appropriate land modification technologies must be determined by soil and climate conditions and socio-economic constraints of the site in question. The achievement in computing technologies particularly the Geographical Information System (GIS) has enabled the Department of Land Resource Planning and Development (planners and rationes using GIS and remote sensing techniques) to determine site-specific ecological and economic feasibilities for steep land use and conservation Various watershed management models, land use policy guidelines, erosion prediction and decision support systems are being developed which integrated downstream agricultural and economic development with upstream land use, restoration and conservation.

**Financing:** Government funding for the Pacificland Soil Loss Research, Awareness and Education, Sustainable Land Management Technology Transfer Government funding on Geographical Information System Upgrading (Hardware and software).

**Cooperation:** Sustainable management of steep lands for agricultural production cannot be achieved by onsite technological alone. It must be supported by governmental and private institutions that are capable for implementing conservation policies, providing technical and financial assistance to steep land communities, and generating public awareness of the effects of upstream (onsite) land degradation (deforestation, soil erosion) on short-term economic benefits and long-term ecological and environmental consequences downstream (offsite).

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## CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Decision-Making:** The Fiji Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forests and ALTA (MAFF&A) is committed to promoting sustainable agriculture and rural development. The Environmental Technical Committee is the primary coordinating body within the Ministry of Agriculture. The Economic Planning Division sets policy, and the Land Water Resources Management Division implements this policy. MAFF&A's "Mission Statement", as laid out in its 1997-2000 Corporate Plan clearly states "... MAFF&A is committed to the responsible and sustainable development of Fiji's agricultural, fisheries and forestry resources..." This commitment to the concept of sustainability is made real through four areas of operation. Fiji has a comprehensive "Land Conservation and Improvement Act" which covers good husbandry of land. Failure to adhere to the Act can lead to a farmer losing his/her lease entitlement. Good land husbandry practices are also an integral part of the Agricultural Landlord and Tenant Act, which governs all leasing of agricultural land. The MAFF&A does not lend its approval to any potential farmer attempting to gain a lease on "marginal" land, where the MAFF&A perceives there to be a high risk of land degradation. The MAFF&A has extension officers who advise farmers on the best long-term use of their land. Environmental conservation is seen as an integral part of the extension process.

The Ministry of Regional Development and Multi-Ethnic Affairs will play an important lead role in coordinating rural development programs of a number of Government agencies, Non-Government organizations, civil societies and the private sector to further develop and enhance the sustainable livelihoods of Fiji's rural population. Direct assistance to the rural community based on a one third community contribution and two-thirds government contribution concept has assisted rural communities in helping improve their standards of living. There are two types of assistance: Department of Multi-Ethnic Affairs Projects for non-Fijian communities; and Regional Development projects targeting mainly Fijian Villages, which is funded through annual appropriations and is utilized at the discretion of District Officers and Divisional Commissioners. Government grants are provided to a wide range of self-help projects such roads, water supply, jetties, bridges, bus shelters and dispensary.

**Programmes and Projects:** Fiji has an impressive quantity and range of traditional food, which are grown throughout Fiji and identified as a "hidden strength" of the economy. These include root crops, coconuts, traditional rice varieties, leafy vegetables and fruits. In 1997, a four year investment programme, known as the Commodity Development Framework (CDF), was established with funding allocation of \$F69 million over a four year period. The commodity focus were coconuts, ginger, taro, kava, fruits, vegetables, dairying, beef and sheep.

**Status:** The 1996 Census records that 54 percent (from 61 percent in 1986) of Fiji's population reside in rural areas. While the majority of Fiji's population still live in the rural areas, there has been an absolute decline by an annual average of 0.6 percent in the rural population over the last decade due to rural to urban migration. This trend is driven by perceived prospects of employment, problems of access to rural land, limited income generating opportunities and poorer services and infrastructure in the rural areas. This has led to an 'unbalanced' growth and relative inequities evident in the disparities of income. The economic growth in the urban sector to day can be attributed to the productive processes of the rural sector, yet the rural population continue to be the most depressed sector of the economy.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The focus therefore of Government for the sector over the next five years will be to continue vigorously implement programs that will sustainably extend the benefits of development to the other half of the population that reside in our rural areas. Particular emphasis will be placed on increasing employment opportunities; improving the provision of strategic social services such as health and education; expanding the provision of strategic infrastructure and other utilities; and reviewing the administrative, fiscal and management systems to ensure that they are decentralized and participatory. This will effectively link rural people to well-functioning markets for products, inputs and finance; and ensure rural communities' access to medical care, clean water and sanitation, family planning services, educational opportunities and sufficient nutritious food.

**Information:** The Fiji Poverty Report, 1996 based on the 1990-1991 Household Income and Expenditure Survey revealed that approximately 25 percent of households live below the poverty line and a further 25 percent are vulnerable to any adjustment. The Poverty Report, which classified rural poor households by the characteristics of Head of Household in settlement and villages, revealed that the national adjusted average for the whole of the country currently stands at \$107/week.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** Funding for agricultural projects is provided from the National Budgetary allocation, Governments of Japan and Australia and through the South Pacific Commission. Funding for rural development is from annual national budgetary allocations.

**Cooperation:** Fiji participates in the Pacific Regional Agricultural Programme (PRAP), the Pacific Land Network (IBSRAM) and in meetings of the Agricultural Ministers of the Pacific Island Nations. Some funds and technical assistance have been received by various bilateral agencies, including the UNDP in this regard.

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## CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

**Decision-Making:** The current draft of the Sustainable Development Bill has a section on Biodiversity to ensure promotion of protection of biological diversity. As one of its key topics Fiji's National Environment Strategy addresses the protection of its natural biodiversity. This includes recommendations of strategic objectives. Fiji has just recently secured some funding from GEF, through UNDP, to prepare its Biodiversity Conservation Strategy and Action Plan, and to prepare its national report to the Conference of the Parties. This project will include the assessment of existing stock and information, national workshops for consultations and analysis of options. Besides the preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan as an integrative approach by many organizations, the issue of biological diversity has been incorporated into various structures of responsibilities of various governmental and non-governmental organizations. It is when formulating national policies or projects that these responsibilities are realized and integrated. Examples include the preparation of mangrove management plans and a national land use plan. Fiji also attempts to address issues of the conservation of marine resources, intellectual property rights, bio prospective and bio safety.

**Programmes and Projects:** The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (BSAP) is a project that focuses to outline the state of Fiji's biodiversity and to develop approaches that would conserve and protect natural resources. The BSAP has recommended resource management projects that attempt to address national issues of both national and local levels. Stakeholders include: government departments, NGOs, and local communities. Issues include: depleting resources, land degradation, unsustainable use of resources, etc.

**Status:** The final draft of the BSAP has been produced, however, it is undergoing editing for structure and defining of responsibility areas of the various stakeholders involved with its implementation. The study has been a very extensive one involving many stakeholders, and it was very important to coordinate their involvement. NGOs and consultants did an extensive research and assessment work, and it was important that their inputs were appropriately incorporated.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Fiji does have the capacity to implement the BSAP. Personnel with the relevant experience and academic qualification are available within Government, NGOs, the region's university, and local consultants. The Department of Environment has been working closely with the Curriculum Development Unit of the Ministry of Education, and with NGOs and local communities to incorporate the appropriate management strategies into their respective systems. Awareness-raising has been a combined efforts of the Department of Environment, NGOs, and local communities. This has been mainly done through workshops in local settlements.

**Information:** Various government departments have databases of their own which have shared their information with others. The surveys and updating of data have involved fieldwork and verification with existing data. The Department of Environment is preparing an environmental database focusing on an inventory of status of natural resources in Fiji.

**Research and Technologies:** Research activities have involved field trips to identified areas, sampling of identified species, random population counts, and inventories of data collected and collated. These have been manually undertaken. The local communities have been involved with consultants.

**Financing:** At present the activities of this project have been funded by the project funds provided through UNDP from GEF.

**Cooperation:** Cooperation has been through international agreements under the Biodiversity Convention. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) has not been signed. The Convention on Biological Diversity was signed in 1992 and ratified in 1993.

## **CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**

### **Decision-Making:**

*Technologies:* Technical assistance and technologies accessible to Fiji in international and regional organizations would be approached in an integrative manner by the ministries concerned. The Sustainable Development Bill (SDB) makes provision for an effective sustainable policy formulation process. This process is to be established within every government ministry, department or statutory body that has responsibility for the management or administration of social, economic, environmental or natural resource matters. This would ensure that policy formulation is undertaken through the broadest possible consultation and participation. The SDB would empower various ministries to formulate environmental management policies related to their respective areas of work. The Government ministries that receive them, and those that are relevant to promote sustainable development in the sectors would insure technologies that are introduced to Fiji. The SDB would also empower planning authorities to ensure cleaner production of new industries. Codes of practice would be formulated to enable self-regulation of industries, including monitoring and auditing of operations on a regular basis. Codes of Practice would ensure that industries meet the standards of the ISO 14000 series. International and regional organizations would be approached to fund projects on training which would be required in order to implement the SDB. A donors meeting for this purpose was organized in September 1997.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Programmes and Projects:**

*Technologies:* Current technology resources would be utilised. Technical assistance and capacity building are being requested with relevant donors when required. Projects are yet to be finalized for the donor's meeting.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Status:**

*Technologies:* Line ministries are required to establish Environment Management Units with own staffing and other resources. Existing respective technologies of the ministries would be utilized. Where advanced form of technology is foreseen, then relevant trainings and requests would be accessed from international donors. The challenge would be the successful enforcement of the SDB. A thorough assessment of the capacity of enforcement officers in Fiji needs to be done.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:**

*Technologies:* Appropriate training courses and workshops are being identified to be attended by suitable officers of the Department of Environment and line ministries. These areas of studies have been in the management of waste, EIA, database, and policy formulation. The University of the South Pacific in Fiji has Diploma and Degree courses in environmental science, from which graduates are already being produced. Awareness raising on the types of technologies required are being conducted with the industries. Radio programmes, seminars, advertisements, etc are being used.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Information:**

*Technologies:* Information on the current state of technologies would be provided through a register and databases.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

### **Research and Technologies:**

*Technologies:* Research activities have included assessment of technologies required for other similar legislations as the SDB. ISO14001 standards have set the basis for the level of assessment activities, methods, technique, etc. that would be needed to verify compliance.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

**Financing:**

*Technologies:* Government will provide the activities that are being mentioned for the enforcement of the SDB.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

**Cooperation:**

*Technologies:* The development of the SDB was done through a project funded by ADB. The activities funded included: consultants (local and regional), working equipments, vehicle, fieldwork surveys/studies, awareness programmes, etc.

*Biotechnologies:* No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES**

**Decision-Making:** The decision-making structure for issues related to oceans and coastal areas come under the auspices the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries and the Department of Fisheries. Current fishing policies regarding conservation and exploitation of fish stocks are enshrined in the Fisheries Act Cap 158, the Marine Species Act Cap 158A and subsidiary legislation. The Fisheries Act addresses fishing within traditional customary fishing areas and the policy on catching fish within the customary fishing rights area is that no commercial fishing activities would be undertaken in traditional fishing areas unless the consent of the chiefs and the people having the right to fish in these areas is obtained.

**Programmes and Projects:** In terms of fisheries development and conservation, Fiji is committed to the responsible and rational management of fisheries. Through the customary marine tenure system, traditional methods of conserving fish stocks can be executed, and this form of traditional management is beneficial, resulting in the sustainable and continuing supply of protein to rural people. Fiji supports the principle of responsible fisheries management and conservation, especially also due to the growing fishing pressures and declining fish stocks worldwide.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** Fiji is in the process of undertaking a survey of its total fishery resources. This will further establish appropriate policies for and gradually improve implementation of these policies for national fisheries at the local level. Complementary policies and management plans have been put in place, such as mangrove management plans, and are in the process of being improved. This has been made possible by the integrative approach of the various governmental agencies that have areas of responsibility in coastal areas.

**Financing:** Annual National Budgetary allocation.

**Cooperation:** The United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) was signed and ratified on 10 December 1982. Fiji signed and ratified the Wellington Convention on 11 August 1993 and 18 January 1994, respectively; this convention prohibits the use of long driftnets in the South Pacific. The UN Convention on the Law of the Sea, the United Nations Implementing Agreement (UNIA) and the FAO Conduct for Responsible Fisheries all make reference to responsible fisheries management and conservation; Fiji has been a party to the UNCLOS and tuna agreements. Fiji is very much in the forefront in the regional management of tuna and is very supportive of the current initiatives taken by the Forum Fisheries Agency member countries towards the management of highly migratory fish stocks in the high seas.

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## **CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND THE USE OF WATER RESOURCES**

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry for Agriculture and the Department of Fisheries are in charge of issues related to the management and development of freshwater. All freshwater areas fall under the Traditionally Customary Fishing Rights Area. The tenure system therefore is the management system in place. No person shall undertake any activities, such as fishing etc., unless approved by the Customary Rights owners. There is no commercial fishing in freshwater in Fiji because of the paucity of freshwater fauna. The draft “Sustainable Development Bill” requires the formulation and implementation of a “Policy on Water Quality Management”. Such a policy would include the prohibition of pollution of any water resource and provide for the enactment of regulations to give effect to the requirements of the policy. Fiji’s National Environment Strategy provides a strategic approach to water management and its relation to other aspects of sustainable development. Watershed management and waste control strategies are part and parcel of freshwater management. With the assistance of the Government of Japan, Fiji is now in the process of finalizing a watershed management plan; in particular, it would address flood control and the protection of arable land.

**Programmes and Projects:** The land and water resource Management division of the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests and ALTA has included water resource development and management in its Corporate plan 2001-2003 and subject to availability of funds will identify at least one watershed and develop its water resource as a pilot project through the integrated approach.

**Status:** The Cabinet at its meeting agreed to formulate a national water policy for Fiji. The main area of focus now is on only domestic water supply and hydropower energy, but very little emphasis is given to agriculture water, which will be the biggest potential water consumer in future as experienced in other countries. Various stakeholders will be involved in developing the national policy wide collaborative approach. Whilst the socio-economic development has been placing pressure on available water resources, indiscriminate desertification of watersheds could result in pollution of resource. Fiji is currently blessed with abundance of fresh water (surface and underground) to ensure provision of good quality domestic water for its populace, high potential to generate hydropower, meet industrial demands and provision for irrigation water to increase good quality of agriculture production, thus remained complacent in drawing up national water policy for the country. However, with the recent experience of El Nino and La Nina, these extremes of climate have had serious economic, social and environmental consequences that require prudent macro economic management, proper land use planning and sustainable water resource development and watershed management. General policies on water resource development and management had been documented in its various development plans. Although inventories of all the freshwater areas have not been documented, a number of legislations include the Land Conservation and Improvement Act, Town and Country Planning Act, Crown Land Act, Native Land Trust Act, irrigation, Drainage Act, Rivers and Streams Act and the Water Supplies Act. Although Land Conservationist Board is legally entrusted to ensure sustainable use of land and water resources, it has remained ineffective in executing its responsibilities due to lack of funds and weak functional structure. As new sources of water become increasingly expensive to develop, attention should be shifted towards demand management and efforts to increase water use efficiency in residential, industrial and agricultural sectors.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness:** Availability of experts in this area is very scarce in Fiji. Very little opportunity is available for locals to undergo training in this area. Apart from World Water Day celebrations, no major efforts have been put in place to create awareness on the importance of using this resource sustainably to ensure safe and quality fresh water availability for future generations.

**Information:** Although some information are with the Public Works Department, the Mineral Resource Departments and the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests, there are considerable inadequacies in the availability of data on water resources, especially the ground water and the water quality. There is need for regular

and systematic collection of hydrological, hydro meteorological and hydrological data, as well as identifying the need to for an adequate system for the processing and disseminating the data collected.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** The national government provides for some budgetary allocations on development and management of domestic , industrial and agriculture water use. However, these are not adequate.

**Cooperation:** Permanent Secretary of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forests is the focal point to ESCAP on drawing of guidelines on Strategic Planning and Management in the Development of National Resources. Currently the guidelines are being developed for water and the energy sectors.

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## **CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS**

**Decision-Making:** Fiji, as a member of the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), has to be part of the development of the International Legally Binding Instrument for Implementing International Action on Certain Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs). The evidence that the perverse effects of POPs exposure for wildlife and humans are more acute in the surroundings of their release necessitates its involvement. The need for cooperation of line ministries would be paramount for the implementation of the international treaty at the regional and national levels, especially when there is the transboundary movement and effects of POPs. There are a number of ministries that import POPs in some form or another, and for various uses, and these are mainly in the fields of medicine and agriculture. The main stakeholders would include the Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Health, Agriculture, and Environment. Fiji signed the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants on 14 June 2001, and it is now in the process of requesting UNEP for financial support to develop National Implementation Plans concerning POPs. The plans are to put in place management strategies for the storage, transportation, and disposal of POPs.

**Programmes and Projects:** A project being prepared is the Development of National Implementation Plans for the Management of POPs.

**Status:** To prepare for the commencement of the project, an inventory has already being done of POPs already in the country, their initial usages, storage sites, and disposal sites or contaminated sites. A record of importers and management authorities has also being done. The major challenge would be to appropriately dispose of the POPs, whether locally or overseas.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There is a need to strengthen the capacity of the Department of Environment to formulate a National Implementation Plan for the management of POPs and to coordinate its implementation by the respective ministries and industries that manage these substances. A project activity is the development of a national strategy for education, communication and awareness raising.

**Information:** A project activity is the development of a national strategy for information exchange and communication.

**Research and Technologies:** Assessment of infrastructure capacity and institutions to manage POPs, and regulatory controls. Identification of POPs related human health and environmental issues of concern; basic risk assessment as a basis for prioritization of further action.

**Financing:** The Annual National Budget and some donor funds.

**Cooperation:** The cooperation is international due to the global concern for POPs.

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## CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES

### Decision-Making:

*Hazardous wastes:* Substances classified as hazardous include: pesticides, chemicals (arsenic), petroleum wastes, et al. When enacted, the Sustainable Development Bill will regulate the import, export, transportation, storage, selling or disposal of hazardous substance or waste (according to the Basel Convention). Fiji's State of the Environment Report of 1992 identified the causes and constraints of waste disposal, and its National Environment Strategy of 1993 recommended national priorities for waste management and pollution prevention. In 1994, with the assistance of SPREP, a national workshop was conducted for a comprehensive and integrated approach to preparing a national Waste Minimization and Pollution Control Strategy. This is still in draft form and submissions have been made for its finalization and funding for implementation. The strategy, even in its current draft form, provides guidance and information towards developing environmental regulations on waste management.

*Solid wastes:* The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Urban Development, Housing and Environment are responsible for solid waste and sewage disposal. The Public Works Department develops facilities for the disposal and treatment of sewage. The Public Works Department is responsible for sewage disposal and treatment. There are also ongoing efforts to put sewer lines in unsewered areas. The Public Health Act and the Local Government Act are current laws in Fiji that control the collection and disposal of waste and sewage. However, these Acts do not cover sanitary landfills. A revised Litter Decree came into force in 1997. The Sustainable Development Bill includes provisions for waste minimization and pollution control and it identifies and develops specific responsibilities of various bodies. Local authorities play a catalyst role in the collection and disposal of solid waste. Feasibility studies and environmental impact assessments have yet to be undertaken.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

### Programmes and Projects:

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

### Status:

*Hazardous wastes:* The findings of Fiji's State of the Environment Report include the fact that none of Fiji's waste dump sites meets international standards. Attempts are currently being made to establish a suitable site for a regional sanitary landfill. The necessary feasibility study has been completed and the recommendations are being studied in a public review process. The proposed landfill site would include facilities for reducing wastes that are disposed of; the separation of wastes at source would be encouraged and recycling operations established. Fiji currently has a number of companies that recycle papers and scrap metals.

*Solid wastes:* National regional landfill is being proposed with appropriate disposal, recycling, separation, and leachate control facilities.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

### Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* WHO, SPREP and other international and regional organizations provide Training in this area.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

### Information:

*Hazardous wastes:* Fiji has virtually no information available on the generation, storage or disposal of hazardous wastes.

*Solid wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

**Research and Technologies:**

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

**Financing:**

The annual national budget and various donor funds.

*Hazardous wastes:* No information available.

*Solid wastes:* The European Union and the Government of New Zealand provide funding for waste management projects.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

**Cooperation:**

*Hazardous wastes:* The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal has not been signed.

*Solid wastes:* No information available.

*Radioactive wastes:* No information available.

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## CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

**Women:** Decision-making: The Department of Women is involved in completing a National Implementation Plan for Women, which will address the commitments made by the Government at the UN Conference on Women. The Fiji Law Reform Committee is working in the area of Family Law and the Department has already made its submission. The Department of Women has also commissioned a paper on a “Review of Laws that Discriminate Against Women”, following a commitment made at the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women (Beijing, September 1995). A Cabinet decision in 1996 urged relevant authorities to increase women's membership by 30-50% in the next 3 to 5 years; and those Boards and Committees that do not have women should have them in the immediate future. Regarding submissions for the Sustainable Development Bill, the Department responsible for these matters is represented in the Working Committee on the “Year of the Coral”. It has facilitated workshops and environment education programmes for women in the rural and urban communities. It has also provided support for funding applications and other NGO programmes on the environment. Future plans are to mainstream gender balance into all environmental policies and programmes. NGOs are very active in this area of concern. Also, a National Women's Plan of Action, resulting from Fiji commitments to the Beijing Conference, was launched in October 1998. It is from this National Plan of Action that the overall strategy policy objectives have been derived.

Status: In 1993, the percentage of women members on Boards and Committees was 9.7%; in 1996, it increased to 13.3%. However, the percentage of women in government decreased from 25% (3 out of 12) in 1992 to 6.6% (1/15) in 1996, and the percentage of women in parliament decreased from 42% (3/70) in 1992 to 2.8% (2/70) in 1996. The percentage of women at local government level increased from 4% (6/159) in 1992 to 9.4% (13/138) in 1996.

Information: Fiji's first report to the CEDAW Committee is being finalized. Cooperation: The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women was acceded 28 August 1995.

**Children and Youth:** Decision-making: Youth organizations, such as Provincial Youth Council, National Assembly of District Youth Council, Fiji National Youth Council, and International Youth Organization, are involved in a dialogue with Government through the Ministry of Youth and Sport. Programmes and Projects: See under **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising.** Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Although Fiji's youth are defined officially as persons aged between 15 and 24, local notions of young persons are not synonymous with chronological age and may extend to persons who are twelve years old and those who are in their late twenties – in social contexts the definition of youth is behavioural. These are the concern of youth programmes in Fiji. Much of the effort is focused on mobilizing and empowering unemployed youth and school leavers in various capacities to facilitate a holistic development. High levels of unemployment with limited opportunities for paid employment is one of the major problems currently facing young people in Fiji. Of the estimated 16, 000 persons seeking employment each year, about 8000 can be expected to find employment due to migration, retirement, etc. The other 8,000 will be seeking new jobs (Parliamentary Paper No. 20, 1999). This problem has increased substantially in recent years due to the growing desire by rural youths to seek paid employment in urban areas and the impact of the May 19<sup>th</sup> crisis on Industries that provided employment. Young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are the concern of youth programmes in Fiji. In 1996, these constituted about 20 percent of the total population. While in formal terms the programmes are targeted to every age group, much of the effort is focused on mobilizing and training unemployed youth and school leavers in various capacities to broaden and facilitate career development and self-employment. The problem is not so much having access to appropriate secondary education or vocational training as the limited opportunities for paid employment. This problem has intensified in recent years due to a greater number of rural youth seeking employment in urban areas. In 1992, youth unemployment was 16.4%.

**Indigenous People:** Decision-making: Indigenous people fully participate in national policy processes. Policies and legal instruments to empower indigenous people and their communities are in place. At present, assistance is being provided in areas of institutional strengthening and capacity building such as the restructuring and enhancing of the Fijian Administration System in particular the Fijian Affairs Board and the provincial Councils; capital investment and the equity financial support provided through FAB education scholarship funds; advisory services for small business provided through the Small Business Unit. Indigenous people fully participate in national policy

processes. Policies and legal instruments to empower indigenous people and their communities are in place. Status: Mechanisms for the involvement of indigenous people in resource management strategies and programmes are being discussed. The low level of participation of Fijians in business has been a cause of concern particularly for socio economic development and political stability. Some of the factors that have contributed to this disparity include: weak entrepreneurial skills, a culture not conducive to business principals and lack of capital. It is recognized that the fundamental long-term objective of enhancing the role of Fijians in business falls heavily on education and training. Mechanisms for the involvement of indigenous people in resource management strategies and programmes are being discussed.

**Non-Governmental Organizations:** Decision-making: FCOSS as the representative NGO umbrella organization participates in government-established bodies, such as the Department of Environment Committees, the National Disaster Management Council, the National Squatter Council, and the Technical Working Group on Poverty Alleviation. Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Among the activities undertaken for environment awareness are publication of Sustainable Development issues in the quarterly "Voluntary Action Network", posters conveying messages for a sustainable livelihood, dissemination of sustainable development articles to key organizations, inclusion of environmental impact studies in all projects seeking grants, inclusion of sustainable development as a key topic in all civil society executive training programmes including the training of school managers.

**Local Authorities:** Decision-making: The Government supports Local Agenda 21 initiatives. While local authorities have not formed Local Agenda 21s, they have adopted policies in pursuance of sustainable development. They have been guided by national policies e.g. on the preservation of mangroves, the conservation of wildlife and forest, coral reefs, waste disposal, littering in public places and pollution of the air, rivers and seas.

**Workers and Trade Unions:** Decision-making: In promoting and strengthening the role of the workers and their Trade Union, Fiji through the Ministry of Labour and Industrial Relations, has done the following. (a) Establishing Bipartite and Tripartite Mechanisms on Safety, Health and Sustainable Development-The tripartite mechanism on safety and health is provided for in the newly enacted Health and Safety at Work Act 1996, which came into force on 1 November 1997. The Tripartite National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Board established by said the Act would deal with the subject assisted by the Health and Safety Committees and the Health and Safety Representatives. (b) Increasing Number of Environmental Collective Agreements-The Act is now in place and its impact will automatically influence negotiations in collective agreements to encompass environmentally friendly conditions to be drawn up. This impact could be more accurately gauged after a period of five or more years. (c) Reducing Occupational Accidents and Injuries-The new Health and Safety at Work Act 1996 has shifted the responsibility of looking after the safety of workers to the workers themselves. As such, the emphasis would be placed on the concept of a safe workplace instead of a safe worker. This arrangement will compel employers to discuss the matter with workers and their representatives as to what is needed to create a safe workplace and thus reduce accidents and injuries. (d) Increasing Workers' Education and Training Efforts-For any change to be effective in the workplace, increased education and training of the workers concerned is essential. To assist in this area, the Ministry responsible (under the new Health and Safety at Work Act) will be monitoring any injuries sustained in the various industries with a view to conducting training courses specifically geared to addressing those areas identified where further training is needed. Workers' views, apart from those obtained through the National Occupational Health and Safety Advisory Board, could also be obtained from the tripartite Labour Advisory Board, the existing eight Wage Councils and the Tripartite Forum. This information is based on Fiji's submission to the 5th Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, April 1997. Cooperation: Fiji has ratified three out of the seven core Conventions, in addition to fourteen others, making a total of 17 ratifications so far. With the recent amendments of its labour legislation, Fiji would be in a position to ratify Convention No. 87 dealing with Freedom of Association and the Protection of the Right to Organize Convention 1948. The conventions concerned are Convention No. 100 concerning Equal Remuneration 1951; Convention No. 111 on Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) 1958, and Convention No. 138 dealing with the Minimum Age 1973.

**Business and Industry:** The Ministry of Commerce, Business Development & Investment is the Fiji Government's conduit to the private sector. The Ministry undertakes a number of consultative meetings with a number of industry organizations such as the Fiji Employers Federation (FEF), the Fiji Manufacturers Association (FMA) and the Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI) on issues of importance such as Economic Development, Investment Facilitation and creating an environment that is "business friendly". These meetings are part of the Ministry's Work Programme for the year and are held every month or more regularly on a need basis. The Ministry also facilitates the attendance of various private sector representatives to Meetings and Courses held overseas. The Ministry also regards the private sector as a participatory partner in national policy decision-making, which has been reflected in the establishment of a combined Government and Non-State Bodies Trade Development Committee.

**Scientific and Technological Community:** If Fiji is to compete effectively in international markets, then businesses must become more efficient by adopting modern technology. Government sees an urgent need for an appropriate Science and Technology policy to promote the adoption of new, more efficient, and methods of production to improve the competitiveness of industry. Such policy should provide appropriate support for technology acquisition, for the transfer of technology from overseas, for the spread (or diffusion) of new technology throughout industry, for scientific research and development, and for technology management and human resource development. No information available. The main goal in the medium term is to encourage technology acquisition and stimulate the application of technology to improve productivity and performance in all productive sectors. The promotion and development of information technology (IT) should also be actively pursued to support industries striving to improve efficiency. Government responsibility for the development and promotion of science and technology is currently split amongst a number of Ministries and departments. While the Ministry of Education has the role of providing science and technology in schools, the wider issues of science and technology, particularly coordination, are not adequately addressed. Science research and development is also fragmented. Laboratories within MAFF, and the Ministry of Commerce, which also maintains a small number of under resourced laboratories for quality accreditation weights and measures, cover research on agriculture. Since each Ministry needs to maintain its specialty, there is no dedicated institution that is responsible for dealing with science and technology policy issues and driving technological development. *Scientific Research:* Over the last decade, insufficient attention has been given to the generation of domestic technology, or the effective utilization of available foreign technology. Efficient acquisition of appropriate technologies becomes more critical as Fiji diversifies into new products, and as global competition intensifies, and projects become larger and more complex. However, no institutional mechanism currently exists in Fiji to collect and disseminate information on appropriate technologies, or to provide advise on technical and commercial aspects of technology selection and transfer.

**Farmers: Decision-making:** The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Forests & ALTA (MAFF&A) is committed to agricultural sustainability. Legislation for land conservation already exists and the Ministry of Agriculture has an Environmental Technical Committee. MAFF&A recognizes that problems of land and water degradation exist in Fiji, and it is formulating policies and practices to minimize them and their impact. The Fiji Sugar Corporation (FSC) works closely with the Fiji Sugar Cane Growers' Council and the Ministry of Agriculture attends all Provincial Council Meetings. As a developing nation, Fiji farmers cannot enjoy the same choices as farmers from developed nations. Moreover, there are no specific financial incentives for farmers in Fiji to conserve their land. Therefore, many challenges lie ahead for Fijian agriculture to ensure long-term sustainability. Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising: Sustainable farming practices and technologies are being promoted through applied research, crop and livestock extension programmes, the mass media and practical demonstrations.

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## CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS

Apart from the annual national budget, financial resources to be undertake global, regionally significant activities are limited. However, some assistance has been forthcoming from overseas donors. These have come mainly from: The foundation for the South Pacific (FSP); World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF); South Pacific Regional environment Programme (SPREP); Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP); South Pacific Commission (SPC); United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Various developed countries, such as the USA, Japan, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, have provided small Grant schemes. Funds have come from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) for regional programmes and for Fiji's preparation of the Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan. The European Union (EU), World Bank and Asia Development Bank (ADB) have funded environment-related projects in the infrastructure, education, agriculture and health sectors. This issue is also covered under the heading **Financing** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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## **CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision-Making:** Emphasis is placed on technical vocational training to meet market demand.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** School buildings have been upgraded, scientific equipment of schools and teacher training have been improved.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** A database on a national programme on human resources for planning purposes is being established.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING**

This issue has been covered under the heading **Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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**CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR  
CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 2 or under the heading **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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## **CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.

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## CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile.

25	Children and youth	ii	*	ii	ii	ii
26	Indigenous people	ii	*	ii	ii	ii
27	Non – government organization	ii	ii	*	ii	ii
28	Local authorities	ii	*	ii	ii	ii
29	Workers and trade unions	ii	ii	ii	ii	ii
30	Business and industry	ii	ii	*	ii	ii
31	Scientific and technological community	ii	ii	*	ii	ii
32	Farmers	ii	*	*	ii	ii
33	Financial resources and mechanisms	ii	ii	*	ii	ii
34	Technology, cooperation and capacity – building	ii	*	ii	ii	ii
35	Science for sustainable development	ii	ii	*	ii	ii
36	Education, public awareness and training	ii	*	ii	ii	ii
37	International cooperation for capacity – building	ii	ii	*	ii	ii
38	International institutional arrangements	ii	ii	*	ii	ii
39	International legal instruments	ii	ii	*	ii	ii
40	Information for decision - making	ii	ii	*	ii	ii

This information is based on Fiji's submission to the 5<sup>th</sup> Session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, April 1997. Last updated: May 1997.

	CONVENTION	DATE
1	Convention on the High Seas	1970
2	International Plant Protection Agreement	1956
3	Convention on the Continental Shelf	1970
4	Convention on Fishing and Conservation of the Living Resources of the High Seas	1971
5	Plant Protection Agreement for South East Asia	1971
6	Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in the Atmosphere, Outer Space and Underwater	1972
7	Treaty on Non – proliferation of Nuclear Weapons	1972
8	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil	1972
9	Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, and Stockpiling of Bacteriological and Toxin Weapons and their Destruction	1973
10	International Atomic Energy Agency	1973
11	International Convention Relating to Intervention on the High Seas in Cases of Oil Pollution Casualties	1975
12	International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage	1975
13	South Pacific Forum Fisheries Agency Convention	1979
14	United Nations Convention on Law of the Sea	1982
15	International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage	1983
16	South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone Treaty and Protocol	1985
17	Vienna Convention and Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer	1989
18	Convention on the Conservation of Nature in the South Pacific (Apia Convention)	1989

19	Convention for the Protection of Natural Resources and Environment of the South Pacific and their Related Protocols (SPREP Convention)	1989
20	Convention for the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage	1990
21	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change	1992
22	Convention on Biological Diversity	1992
23	Trans – Boundary Movement of Hazardous Waste in the South Pacific Region (Waigani Convention)	1996

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## **CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING**

This issue has been covered either under Chapter 8 or under the heading **Decision-Making** in the various chapters of this Profile.

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## CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry does not administer laws, standards or programmes specifically dealing with sustainable management. However, the Ministry has a Memorandum of Understanding with Standards Australia International on the adoption of Australian standards, of which some will address environmental issues. The new ISO 14000 Standard series dealing specifically with environmental issues is being encouraged and will be implemented by the office of Fair Trading and Consumer Affairs.

**Programmes and Projects:** The current project for the Standards office is the planning for the Pacific Area Standards Congress XXV to be hosted by Fiji in 2002.

**Status:** The Standards Division has taken over secretariat duties from the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards, who were hosts this year.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** National Budget.

**Cooperation:** Memorandum of Understanding with Standards Australia International for the adoption of Australian Standards.

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## CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

**Decision-Making:** The Fiji Tourism Development Plan sets conservation and environmental protection measures (which are required for all tourism, not just ecotourism) in the context of development plans for the overall industry. A Sustainable Development Bill prepared by the Department of the Environment, should prove a valuable aid in providing criteria for good practice for the tourism industry generally, and sustainable tourism in particular, once it is enacted. A number of parts of the Sustainable Development Bill have provisions relating directly to sustainable tourism and park management: Part XII - Resource Management - General; Part XIII - Coastal Resource Management; Part XIV - Fisheries Conservation and Management; Part XV - Sustainable Forestry Management; Part XVI - Energy Conservation; Part XVII - Biodiversity, Conservation and National Parks Management.

**Programmes and Projects:** Fiji will be celebrating the *International Year of Ecotourism - 2002* by hosting a seminar that will be sanctioned by the *World Tourism Organization* and co-sponsored by the *Asian Productivity Organization* that will be held in Fiji from April 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup>, 2002. It would also be an opportunity to showcase and launch the Fiji Ecotourism Best Practice Accreditation and the Green Productivity Methodology. A series of workshops and training programmes have been designed in cooperation with the Fiji National Training Council. The main park based ecotourism products or destinations at present are: *Colo-i-Suva Forest Park* established in 1972 by the Department of Forestry; *Sigatoka Sand Dunes National Park* established by the Fiji National Trust in 1989; *Bouma National Heritage Park*, community based tourism from the 1950s and the present project initiated in 1990 by NLTB and the Department of Forestry; *Koroyanitu National Heritage Park*, community based and initiated in 1990 by NLTB, Fiji Pine Limited and the Department of Forestry; and, *Tavuni Hill Fort*, community based historical fort.

**Status:** During the last decade, environment tourism cum ecotourism products in Fiji has become an important segment of the tourism industry. While Fiji is predominantly a “sun, sea, resort holiday” destination, with its maturing and diversified markets, environment tourism cum ecotourism products have been successfully established. Problems remain. First, because of the number of government and non-government agencies involved, directly and indirectly, with environmental tourism, there is considerable overlap in their interests and activities. There is a clear need for an open and continuing forum enabling all those involved in environmental tourism to meet regularly to exchange information about current activities and future plans. This has been countered through the Fiji Ecotourism Policy & Strategy whereby an Ecotourism Coordination/Advisory Committee is the forum where all the various stakeholders meet to discuss various issues in relation to sustainable/Ecotourism. Secondly, similar breakdowns of communication occur within and among government departments from time to time. For example, environment does not know what the Department of Tourism is doing, and neither may have much idea what is happening in the Departments of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries or in Town and Country Planning.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** While the focus of the Government has been primarily on attracting overseas tourists to Fiji for the benefit of foreign exchange earnings, there is also considerable benefit for Fiji citizens for education and recreation in many ecotourism attractions. All visitors, whatever their origin may bring local economic benefits.

**Information:** The Fiji Tourism Development Plan 1998-2005, is the Government’s overall guiding policy document for the industry and sets out a path aimed at sustainable development of tourism. The Plan promotes ecotourism as having an important role in the development of Fiji tourism, through its ability to support environmental protection and rural job creation. More recently, in 1999, the Government approved the Ecotourism and Village Based Tourism Policy and Strategy for Fiji. This uses the following definition of ecotourism; A form of nature-based tourism which involves responsible travel to relatively undeveloped areas to foster an appreciation of nature and local cultures, while conserving the physical and social environment, respecting the aspirations and traditions of those who are visited, and improving the welfare of local communities.



**Research and Technologies:** Other international donors who have been active are JANCPEC (Japan National Committee for Pacific Economic Cooperation), which has assisted with interpretation and planning at Bouma and Koroyanitu National Heritage Park; and the European Union (EU) which, through the Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP), funded the Tavuni Hill Fort restoration and presentation for tourism. For three years the *South Pacific Regional Environmental Programme (SPREP)*, has been actively involved, through NLTB as project manager, in providing conservation management support at the Koroyanitu National Heritage Park through the provision of technical services and a full time Conservation Area Support Officer (CASO). *The South Pacific Forum Secretariat*, has been funding marketing support programmes; Archaeological Investigation by the Fiji Museum in cooperation with Archaeologists from around the world on historical/heritage sites such as the Sigatoka Sand Dunes. *USP (University of the South Pacific) Marine Studies Department*, which has been undertaking marine awareness workshops and is associated with a proposed provincial marine park for the Cakaudrove Area (Vanua Levu and Taveuni). *WWF (Worldwide Fund for Nature, South Pacific Programme)* is an NGO whose primary concern is the protection of the natural environment. Several of their activities benefit or will benefit ecotourism such as the protection of marine resources at several locations around Kadavu. *UNDP (United National Development Programme)*, has a small grant project scheme that can assist community-based tourism projects. UNDP is also developing a larger project assistance scheme and is an implementing agency for the Global Environmental Fund (GEF) Medium Size grant programme.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** NZODA has been actively involved in sustainable tourism and in particular in ecotourism and park protection and development since 1989, when it assisted with the review of priorities for forest conservation. This included investigating where ecotourism might play a part in providing an alternative to non-sustainable activities as a source of income for landholders while protecting natural forests. Since then NZODA has, at the request of the Fiji Government, been the main donor for the Koroyanitu and Bouma projects and has assisted a number of other activities of value to ecotourism such as archaeological investigations. *The ILO (International Labour Organization)*, assisted in developing a plan with the Government of Fiji for a significant employment creation programme that includes a major ecotourism sub-programme that addresses several areas of ecotourism such as guide training, and product development. *Tavuni Hill Fort*, community based, with developments from 1992 initially funded by the European Union with development channelled through the Tourism Council of the South Pacific, with cooperation from the Department of Tourism, Fiji Museum and the Department of Forestry. Apart from the Regional and Donor countries, the *Tourism Private Sector* and in particular the Hotel Industry has been *designing environmental friendly practices in cooperation with their clients*. For instance, in terms of encouraging then using their towels twice as a measure of minimising the usage of detergents that flows out into the main outlets and spoiling the environment.

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