

MITIGATING CLIMATE CHANGE AND INCREASING PREPAREDNESS

Fact Sheet

BACKGROUND

Climate change is the single greatest threat facing Fijians today. Like many small island developing nations, Fiji is already exposed to natural risks and those being posed by climate change only exemplify these risks further, threatening the country's development aspirations. To strengthen the nation's resilience to climate change and natural hazards, the Fiji government in an assessment with the World Bank in 2018, had estimated a total required investment of FJD 9.3 billion over a 10 year period to achieve this goal. In addition to this, Fiji had also recently costed its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) in 2022 and estimated a total required investment of USD 1.98 billion to achieve its NDC targets that will charter a pathway to a net zero economy.

As an island nation whose geographical location and topography make it susceptible to the effects of this global phenomena, it is crucial for Fiji to ensure that the economic implications of climate change are well considered and integrated during development planning.

CURRENT STATUS

Recognizing the severity and urgency of the global crisis of climate change, Fiji is one of the very few countries in the world to enact a climate law. Fiji's Climate Change Act enacted in 2021 sets a legal framework for the regulation and governance of the country's national response to climate change.

Although the Act is yet to enter into force subject to the development of certain regulations and guidelines, the Act is a stepping stone to Fiji's pursuit of accelerating and achieving sustainable development through climate action. Since ratifying the historic Paris Agreement in 2015, Fiji has excelled in the area of policy development for addressing

climate change and is aiming to shift towards the accelerated implementation of these policies and plans. These policies outline numerous targets that will charter Fiji's pathway towards a net zero and sustainable development economy.

CHALLENGES

1. *Access to climate finance:* Finance remains the largest gap that exists for Fiji in realizing its national goals and targets on climate change. Large scale funding is needed to transition to a net zero economy and implement costly adaptation measures that are needed on the ground urgently.
2. *Lack of technical expertise:* There is a need to leverage the technical knowledge and expertise that is needed to prepare concept notes and bankable proposals that can be submitted to the providers of climate finance. This must be achieved in line with building, growing and sustaining this knowledge/expertise locally.
3. *Regulatory frameworks:* With the enactment of the Climate Change Act, there is a lot to be done to ensure that proper regulations and frameworks are developed to guide the introduction of some of the requirements in the Act once it is enforced.
4. *Lack of data:* A common issue which needs attention especially considering the critical need to report on greenhouse gas emissions (which is part of Fiji's commitment to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) and report on the economic implications of climate change.
5. *Limited Public Financial Management System (PFM) capacity:* This is a significant barrier in Fiji's ability to effectively assess the economic implications of climate change and the access direct funding from major climate finance providers such as the Green Climate Fund.
6. *Effective coordination:* This must be established and strengthened at the national level especially at the level of decision making to ensure ownership and effective coordination on the

implementation of the various national policies and plans on climate action.

OPPORTUNITIES

1. *Enforcement of the Climate Change Act:* This should chart a new pathway for the nation especially in terms of institutionalizing and enhancing accountability in the long term.
2. *Enhancing access to climate finance:* There are plans in place by the Fiji Government to enhance its national ability to directly access climate financing from the major climate finance providers.
3. *Leveraging Technical Expertise:* The Fiji Government is already spearheading pilot initiatives relevant to this and will explore the mainstreaming of climate change in line with ministries across the Government by establishing dedicated units on climate change.
4. *Governance arrangements:* There is an opportunity to improve effective coordination on implementing Fiji's national climate change goals by establishing and activating the necessary governing bodies.

FUTURE POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

- **Climate change adaptation and resilient development:**
 - ✓ To integrate the consideration of climate change projections, articulation of risk reduction responsibilities and formulation of resilience building objectives across all sector plan and strategies.
 - ✓ To increase ecosystem protection, natural resource redundancy, and environmental resilience.
- **Climate change mitigation and resilient development:**
 - ✓ To derive 100% of national electricity production from renewable energy sources

by 2030 and achieve net zero annual greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

- ✓ To decarbonize Fiji's transport sector.

- **Capacity development:**

- ✓ To improve data availability, analytical capacity, risk communications and awareness.
- ✓ To invest strategically in human and technological capacity building for climate resilient development.

- **Sustainable financing:**

- ✓ To increase the use and availability of domestically derived climate finance.
- ✓ To leverage internationally derived climate finance for transformative outcomes.
- ✓ To improve and amend public financial management systems to in respond to changing public service delivery requirements.

- **Private Sector Transition and Engagement:**

- ✓ To enhance public and private sector engagement and alignment.