

Overview of Progress in Addressing Climate Change in Fiji

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Presentation to the National Climate Change
Country Team and Other Stakeholders

Suva, 29 March, 2011

John E. Hay (GOPA Team Leader)

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(Adaptation and Disaster Risk
Management)

Presentation to the National Climate Change
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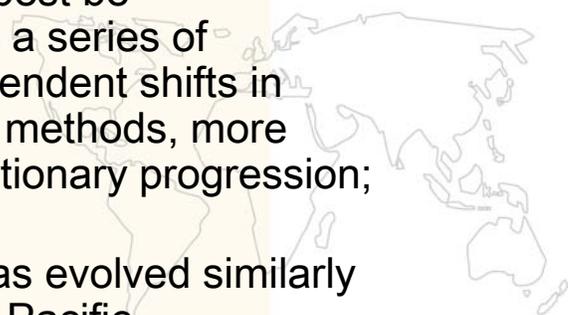
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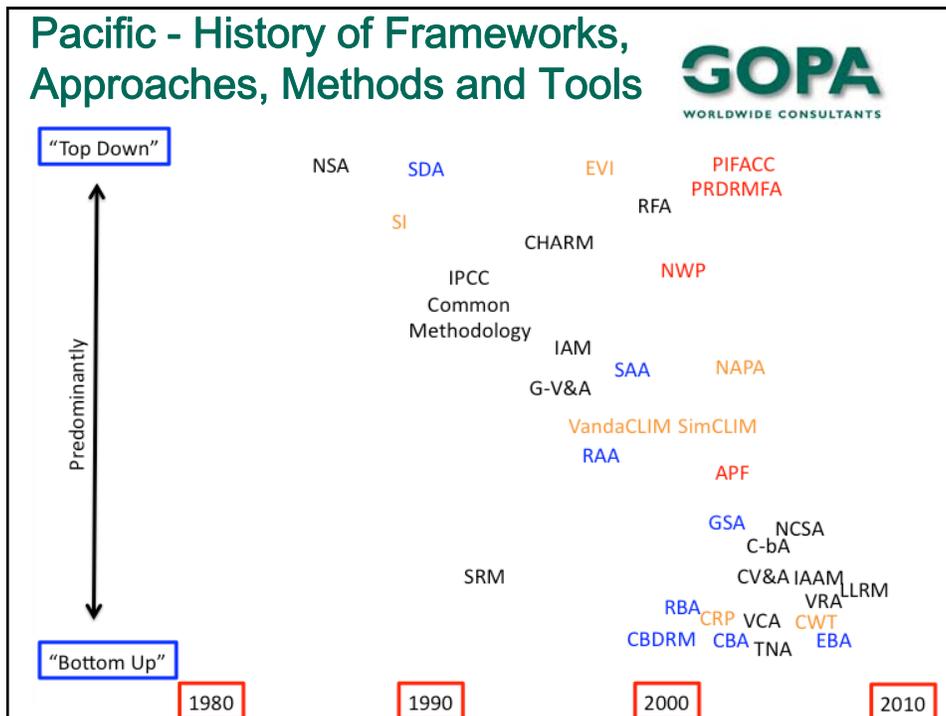
History of Frameworks, Approaches, Methods and Tools



- Practice in the Pacific has paralleled, and sometimes led, the changes in approaches that have occurred globally;
- The history can best be characterised as a series of somewhat independent shifts in approaches and methods, more than as an evolutionary progression; and
- Practice in Fiji has evolved similarly to the rest of the Pacific



Pacific - History of Frameworks, Approaches, Methods and Tools



Example - 2010



for a living planet

Vulnerability of Fiji's mangroves and associated coral reefs to climate change

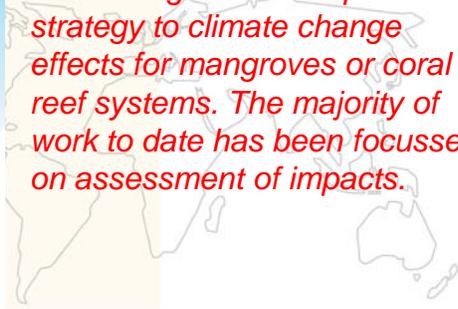
Review by WWF South Pacific Programme



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The review has found that there is little work to date on methodologies and projects that have designed an adaptation strategy to climate change effects for mangroves or coral reef systems. The majority of work to date has been focussed on assessment of impacts.



Pacific - History of Frameworks, Approaches, Methods and Tools

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Climate Projections

Spatial Scale

Regional

National

Sub-national

Average Climate

Plus Extremes

Assessment Focus

Natural Systems

Plus Human Systems

Sectors

Communities

Assessment Emphasis

Future Impacts

Current Vulnerabilities

Current and Future Risks

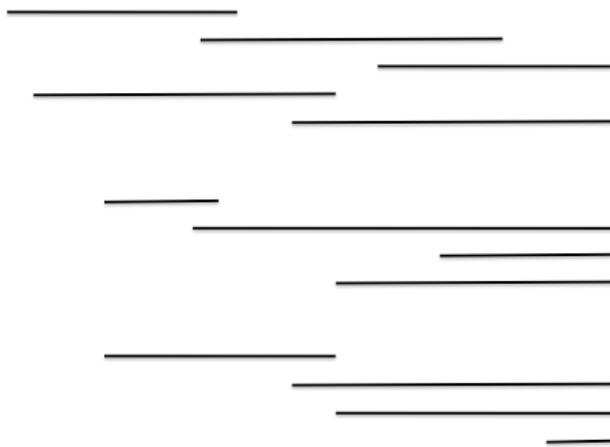
Combination of Above

1980

1990

2000

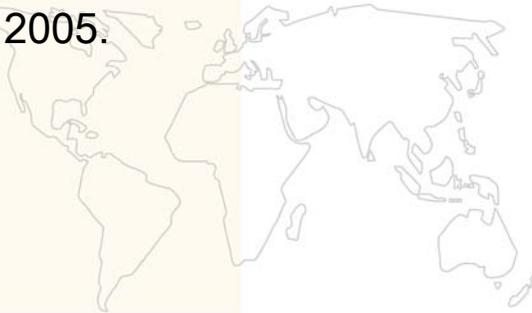
2010



Brief Overview of Fiji's Initial Efforts to Address Climate Change

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- Activities leading to submission of Fiji's Initial National Communication to the UNFCCC;
- Started in 1997 and INC submitted in May, 2005.



Fiji's Initial Efforts Now Related to Addressing Climate Change

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- After 10 years of operation the National Emergency Service Committee was strengthened and upgraded to the National Disaster Management Office [NDMO]
- The Disaster Management Plan was adopted in 1995 (review completed)
- The Natural Disaster Management Act passed by Parliament in 1998 (ditto)
- National Disaster Relief and Rehabilitation Fund established in 2004, with \$2.6 million budget
- Budget increased to \$8 million in 2007
- National Disaster Committee (in Prime Minister's Office) oversees the Fund



More Recent Progress by Fiji to Address Climate Change



Government now addressing climate change more systematically in the national policy context (e.g.):

- Reviving the National Climate Change Country Team – endorsed by Cabinet;
- Establishing a Climate Change Unit (and CC Officer) within the Department of Environment - budget allocated.



More Recent Progress by Fiji to Address Climate Change (cont.)



Climate change recognized in some policy frameworks

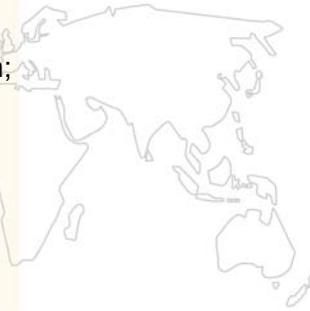
- Fiji Climate Change Policy Framework (developed in 2003; approved by Cabinet in 2007)
- Endangered and Protected Species Act (2002)
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2003)
- Environment Management Act (2005)
- Strategic Development Plan (2007-2011)
- Rural Land Use Policy (2006)
- Forest Policy (2007)
- REDD-Plus Policy (2010)



Ongoing Initiatives Draft Climate Policy (cont.)



- The **Fiji Climate Change Policy Framework** prepared by DoE summarized the major findings from previous assessment reports;
- It also outlined the strategies to guide its implementation, including:
 - Promoting soft solutions / methods to address climate change problems through community participation in seminars and activities like reforestation; and
 - Providing external training to improve and raise public understanding to promote community stakeholder participation;
- Sector focus: agriculture, coastal zone, public health and water resources.



More Recent Progress by Fiji to Address Climate Change (cont.)



- No national policy on climate change;
- However, there is a current initiative to develop, review and implement the national climate change policy framework to become a national policy.



More Recent Progress by Fiji to Address Climate Change

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Comprehensive Hazard and Risk Management [CHARM] now underpins disaster risk management in Fiji:

- Government policy has shifted away from emphasising only timely emergency response to placing increased emphasis on a comprehensive approach that includes:

- community preparedness and disaster mitigation;
- integration of disaster risk reduction in national development planning.



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)

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Community-based Adaptation Projects, including:

- Tikina-Wai project, focusing on mangrove and reef conservation implemented through WWF and SGP;
- Series of pilot projects addressing river bank protection and water supply issues in 6 villages, implemented through the University of South Pacific (e.g. in Buretu, Rewa delta);



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Community-based Adaptation Projects:

- Between 2002 and 2005 the Capacity Building for the Development of Adaptation Measures in Pacific Island Countries (CBDAMPIC) project funded sixteen pilot CBA projects in four PICs, including Fiji;
- Considered to be the first comprehensive initiative to result in tangible adaptation in the Pacific it
- Developed and applied the Community Vulnerability and Adaptation Assessment and Action Methodology (CV&A).



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)

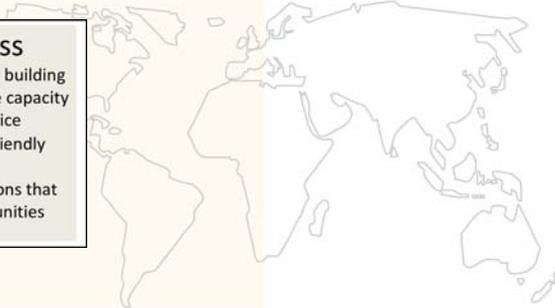


Community-based Adaptation Projects

- Plans in place to scale up these Fiji pilot CBA projects;
- Relevant to consider success factors from CBA projects in Samoa.....

Keys to Success

- 1 Continuous capacity building to enhance adaptive capacity
- 2 Expert technical advice
- 3 A simple and user-friendly M&E framework
- 4 Community champions that can mobilize communities

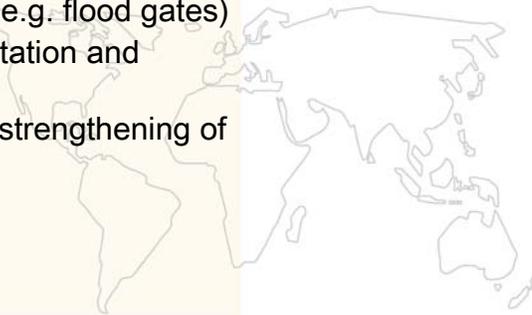


Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change (PACC) 2009-2013; focusing on:

- Adaptation in agriculture and related flood-plain management in the Nausori area
- Dredging of canals and related flood protection infrastructure (e.g. flood gates)
- Community-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- Policy mainstreaming – strengthening of the Drainage Act



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Integrated Water Resources Management Project (IWRM) (2009-2013)

- Climate change considerations only recently included as a smaller project component
- The process not fully informed on climate change risks and how to modify practices to integrate climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction
- Project does not deal with drought-related risks, early warning systems and adaptation measures



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Sustainable Land Management

- Assessments undertaken, including community consultations;
- To be followed by participatory land use planning;
- Leading to diverse on the ground demonstration interventions in 11 villages of 4 districts in the Nadi catchment

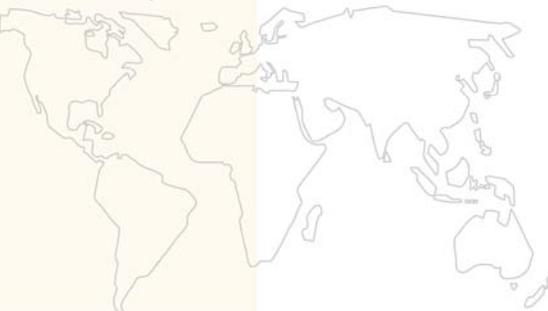


Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Ba River and Dredging Master Plan

- Currently in concept phase, with EIA being undertaken;
- Project design based on 1 in 5 years flood event;
- Proposing small scale community operated check dams



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Pacific Climate Change Science Programme (PCCSP-ICCAI)

- Preparing down-scaled climate
- Rescue, rehabilitate and analyse observed data
- National climate database management systems – an interactive, web-based data portal
- Interactive tropical cyclone tracker – historic and current
- Climate Futures Country Reports scheduled for November 2011
- Related training



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



GIZ Coping with Climate Change in the Pacific Islands Region (CCCPIR)

- Pilot project in Fiji to implement community-level climate change adaptation measures
- Activities to be piloted include introducing climate-resistant crops, breeding extreme weather- adapted livestock, developing community land-use plans, trialling new agroforestry and soil stabilisation methods, and undertaking innovative climate adaptation education programmes



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Implementation of the REDD-Plus Policy

- A national REDD-Plus programme that aims at establishing supporting institutional and legal frameworks to ensure transparency, good governance and observance of safeguards, such as protection of the rights of indigenous resource owners;
- The programme will also address technical components of REDD-Plus, such as the establishment of a forest carbon monitoring system.



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Develop Capacity to Monitor, Evaluate and Communicate Climate Change Adaptation

- The project supports efforts towards internalizing climate change adaptation within rural communities of Fiji and enable the replication of best practices from the six pilot sites to other rural communities
- Resources are mobilized using cost-sharing arrangements with UNDP or other donors



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Enhancing Resilience of Rural Communities to Drought-Related Climate Change and Disaster Risks in the Ba Catchment

- Climate early warning and information systems
- Community-based adaptation to flood and drought-related risks and hazards
- Institutional strengthening to support climate and disaster resilient policy frameworks
- Awareness raising and knowledge management.

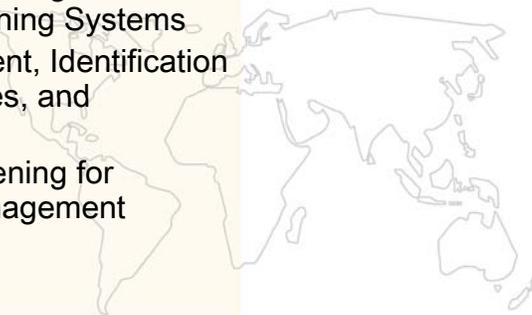


Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Integrated Flood Management in the Pacific - Nadi Flood Pilot

- Closely aligned with the Fiji National Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction;
- Three components:
 - Institutional Strengthening of Flood Forecasting and Warning Systems
 - Flood Risk Assessment, Identification of Mitigation Measures, and Dissemination
 - Institutional Strengthening for Integrated Flood Management

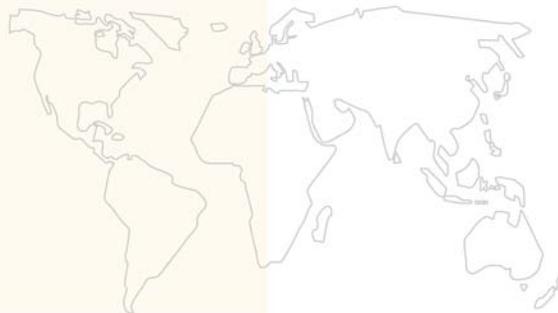


Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Strengthening the Capacity of Fiji to Respond to Climate Change (ADB)

- Building climate change adaptive capacity in adopting and implementing a national climate change adaptation strategy and action plans

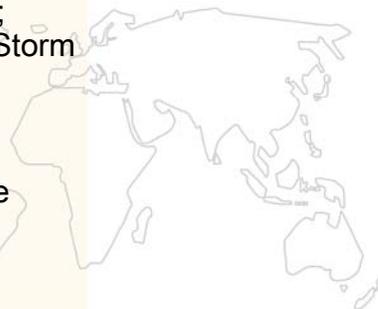


Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Development and Implementation of Fiji's DRM National Action Plan

- To assist Fiji to develop and implement a DRM National Action Plan
- Hazards: Fire; Technical; Flood; Tornado; Cyclone; Heat Wave; Tsunami; Drought; Insect Infestation; Volcano; Earthquake; Land Slide; Epidemic; Storm Surge
- Themes: Capacity Development; Recovery; Civil Society/NGOs; Risk Identification & Assessment; Climate Change; Community-based DRR; Complex Emergency; Disaster Risk Management; Early Warning

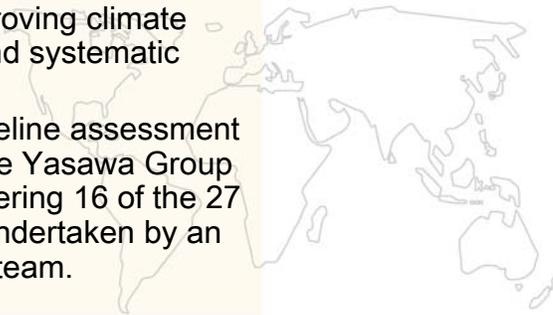


Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



Preparation of Fiji's Second National Communication (SNC)

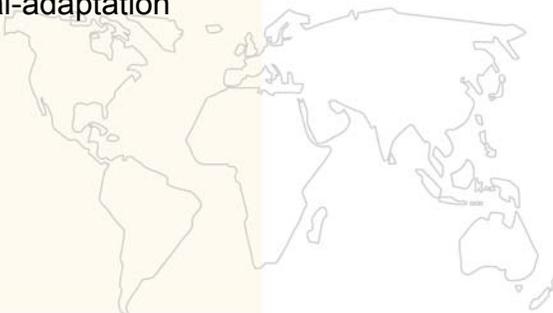
- Builds on the Initial National Communication (INC);
- Critical for achieving Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals;
- Will work towards improving climate monitoring, research and systematic observation;
- One activity is the baseline assessment of the vulnerability of the Yasawa Group to climate change, covering 16 of the 27 villages in the Group; undertaken by an integrated coordinated team.



Ongoing Initiatives (cont.)



- Ministry of Agriculture set up seed depositories in a range of locations across the country after the January 2009 floods;
- But also need to consider changing the priorities and behaviours of farmers, to ensure there is no mal-adaptation



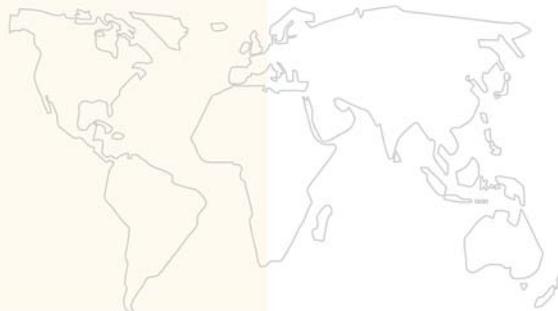
Some Challenges Are Ahead

- Limited technical resources and human capacities to provide tailored information on climate change trends and associated risks, as well as monitoring of climate impacts on natural resources, in order to make informed decisions in the relevant sectors;
- Fiji Agriculture-Land Use and Water Management Section lacks the expertise need to analyse data and provide tailored information to agricultural users.



Challenges (cont.)

- Capacity gaps in terms of preparing and disseminating accurate extreme weather and climate warnings to users;
- Lack of systematic analysis and dissemination of cross-sectoral adaptation experience in order to support integrated adaptation interventions in communities.



Challenges (cont.)

- Very limited information available on:
 - crop agronomical and water requirements;
 - crop and forestry models that incorporate existing and potential climate change risks;
 - crop and forest species suitability according to soil properties, vegetation, topography and land use information overlaid with climate information;
 - impacts of climate change on biodiversity;
- Lack of capacity to integrate climate risk and resilience into watershed management, agriculture, and forestry sector related policies, strategies and instruments.



Concluding Remarks

