

# Climate Change Division Staff Profiles



**Dr Mahendra Kumar**  
Director

Dr. Kumar is a senior climate change specialist who has been involved in climate change programs in the Pacific since 1998, first as International Negotiations Officer for Climate Change for SPREP; Technical Specialist for Climate Change and Manager for Adaptation of UNEP (United Nations Environment

Programme); Assistant Director of the Pacific Adaptation Team of the Australian Department of Climate Change and Energy Efficiency (DCCEE); AusAID Senior Program Officer for Climate Resilience and Water, and Climate Change Consultant at ADB SPSO.

He has also served as an academic at all three Universities in Fiji in various capacities, including Lecturer/Professor, Dean, Director and Vice-Chancellor. He has held Visiting Fellowships at overseas universities and research organizations, such as ANU, CSIRO, and Reading University and was the recipient of a Fulbright award tenable at Boston University.

Dr. Kumar holds a Ph. D. in Environmental Physics from the University of Nottingham, UK and a BSc in Biology/Mathematics/Physics from USP. He has authored over 50 publications including refereed papers, technical reports, conference proceedings, and technical papers, and has presented at numerous conferences, meetings, seminars, symposiums and workshops



**Ms Joeteshna Zenos**  
Climate Change Policy Analyst

Ms Zenos joined the Climate Change Division early this year. She holds a Masters in Public Administration from the University of New Mexico and wrote a thesis focusing on the Governance of Climate Change Management. She also holds a Bachelors of Education from

the University of the South Pacific and a post graduate diploma in teaching of French as a foreign language from the University of Nancy II, France. She has taught at Suva Grammar and International schools in Suva. Her work experience in the United States included working as a sexual assault advocate and setting up a coalition of nonprofit service delivery organizations with funding from Federal and State government



**Ms Alisi Pulini**  
Environment (Climate Change) Officer

Ms Pulini holds a BSc in biology and chemistry, from the University of the South Pacific and joined the Department of Environment in 2007. She took the lead role as the Team Leader when the Climate Change Division was initiated back in 2009. Ms Pulini spearheaded the development of Fiji's National Climate Change

Policy that was endorsed by Cabinet in 2012.



**Mr Waisea Vosa**  
Climate Change Officer

Mr Vosa holds a Bachelor's degree in Chemistry and Mathematics and a Post-graduate Diploma in Chemistry. For the past three years, he was part of the project Building Resilience to Climate Change which was funded by AusAid. He worked with the Climate Change Unit then

and the World Wildlife Fund. He has also worked with various organizations such as the UNDP as a Climate Change and Disaster Risk Management local Specialist, Project Policy Officer with the Department of Environment and as a Policy and technical Officer with the National OHS Services of the Ministry of Labour



**Mr Manasa Katonivaliku**  
National Coordinator Third National  
Communication Project (TNC)

Mr Katonivaliku holds a BSc with double majors in Chemistry and Biology from the University of the South Pacific, Diploma in Food Industry QA Management from Australia, a Post Graduate Diploma in Climate Change and is currently pursuing an MSc in Climate Change from the

University of the South Pacific. He was the Project Coordinator of the Clean Development Mechanism for 3 years until the project ended in December 2012. He later took over the coordination of the Second National Communications Project in January 2013 and is currently working on the Third National Communications Project.



**Ms Aradhana Singh**  
SNC Project Assistant

Ms Singh holds a BSc in Environmental Science, a Certificate in Environment Impact Assessment and is currently pursuing her postgraduate diploma in climate change. She has over three years experience maintaining the Division's adaptation projects database matrix, including one detailing with the

vulnerable communities and sites in Fiji. She was part of the support team for Fiji's National Communications to UNFCCC and was involved in collecting and managing data, arranging and organizing meetings for stakeholders, and accounting of project funds. She has a working knowledge of GIS and basic IT.



**Ms Talei Kocovanua**  
Climate Change Executive Assistant

Ms Kocovanua holds a Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Studies from the University of the South Pacific and is current pursuing her Diploma in Geographical Information System from USP. She joined the Climate Change Division in 2011 as a volunteer assisting in all

climate change activities carried out by the Division. She later joined the Second National Communication Project Team as the data/information and GIS personnel until the closure of the project. As part of her role, Ms Kocovanua focuses on awareness and communications in climate change as well as providing administrative and management support to the Director and the Climate Change Division.

For more information contact:

## Climate Change Division

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# Fiji Climate Change Division



# Climate Change Division

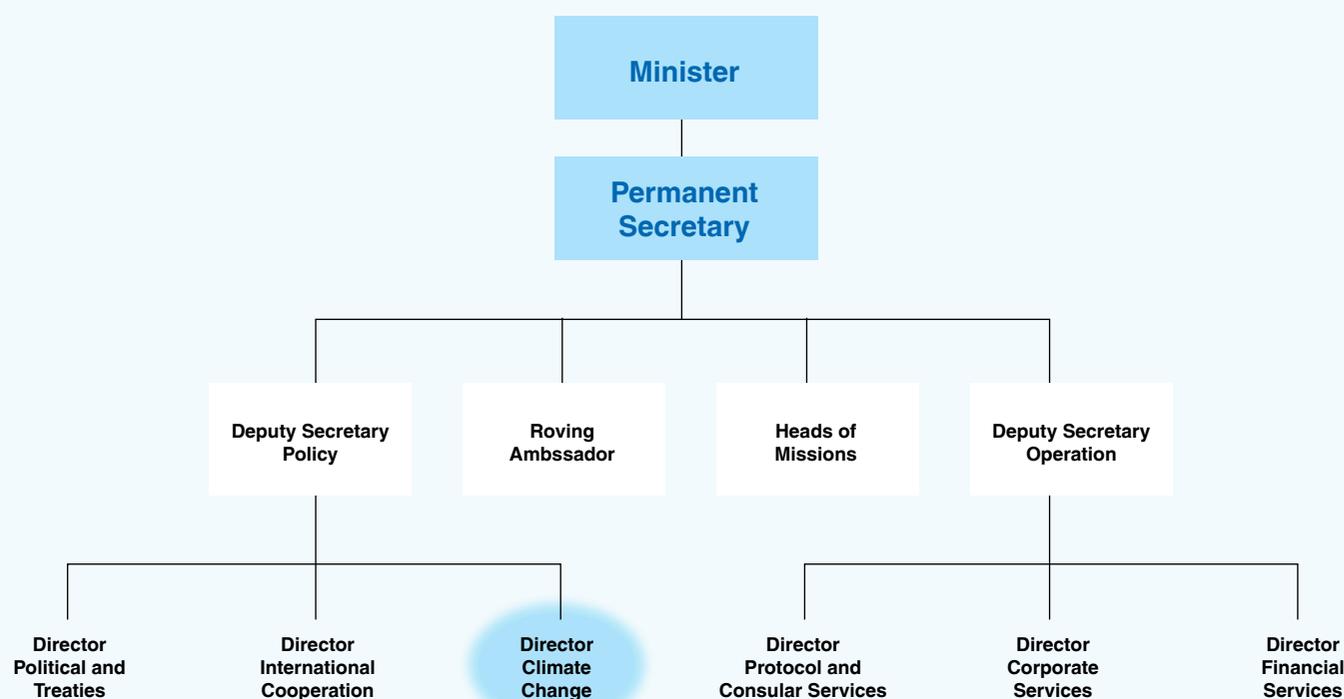
The Climate Change Division (CCD), of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, is the responsible national agency for addressing climate change issues in Fiji. The CCD is guided by the Fiji National Climate Change Policy (NCCP) and works in collaboration with government agencies, non-governmental organisations, regional and international agencies and development partners.

## What we DO?

- Support the implementation of Fiji's Roadmap for Democracy and Sustainable Socio-economic Development 2009-2014 under the People's charter for change, peace and progress

- Promote integration of climate change issues in national planning, budgeting and implementation processes
- Provide guidance on government responses to climate change issues
- Guide sectors to develop appropriate climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies
- Support requests to regional and international agencies to provide resources and assistance in addressing national climate change issues
- Contribute to Pacific regional actions and to meeting international commitments

## Organisational chart for Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Co-operation



# Tacking climate change in Fiji

Fiji policies, legislations and plans that have integrated climate change issues

Sector	Policy / Legislation / Plans
<b>National CC</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Climate Change Policy</li> <li>• Fiji REDD-Plus Policy</li> <li>• CDM Policy Guideline</li> <li>• Fiji's Initial National Communication under the UNFCCC (INC) (2005)</li> <li>• Fiji's Second National Communication (2014)</li> <li>• National Climate Change Adaptation Strategy (Draft)</li> </ul>
<b>Agriculture</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2020 Agriculture Sector Policy (2014)</li> <li>• Disaster Risk Management Strategy for the Agriculture Sector (2010)</li> </ul>
<b>Biodiversity/ Environment</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environment Management Act (2005)</li> <li>• National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (2007)</li> <li>• National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan Implementation Framework (2010-2014) and Annual Workplace (NBSAP)</li> <li>• National Environment Strategy (1993)</li> <li>• Integrated Coastal Management Framework of the Republic of Fiji (2011)</li> <li>• The Integrated Coastal Management Plan</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiji National Curriculum Framework (2014)</li> </ul>
<b>Fisheries</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fisheries Policy Offshore Decree (2012)</li> </ul>
<b>Forestry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiji Forest Policy (2007)</li> <li>• Mangrove Management Plan for Fiji (2014)</li> </ul>
<b>Water Resources</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Water Resources Policy for the Fiji Islands (YEAR?)2005 draft</li> <li>• Rural Water Policy (2012)</li> </ul>
<b>Land Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Action Plan under the UNCCD (NAP) (2007)</li> <li>• Rural Land Use Policy (2006)</li> </ul>
<b>Disaster Management</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Disaster Risk Reduction and Disaster Management: A Framework for Action (2005-2015)</li> </ul>
<b>Energy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiji Sustainable Energy for All - National Energy Policy (2014)</li> </ul>

## Community vulnerability assessments

So far in Fiji, over 600 communities have been identified to be threatened by the impacts of climate change- out of which a maximum of 40-45 settlements may have to be relocated in the next 5 to 10 years. The Climate Change Division collaborated closely with relevant government ministries and departments for the 2 relocation projects at Vunidogoloa Village, in Cakaudrove Province and Nairikoso Village, in Kadavu Province. The Vunidogoloa relocation project has been successfully completed early this year with 30 families moving to their new homes. The government had funded most of the work and the total cost for this relocation project was FJD\$978, 229 which covers the construction of 30 new houses, farms and fishponds for the new village site.

