

DRAFT

FIJI NATIONAL REPORT

**On Progress in implementation of the Mauritius Strategy for Further
Implementation (MSI) of the Barbados Programme of Action (BPOA)**

2010 – 2012

“Accelerating Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development”

JUNE 2013

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 *Background*

1.1.1 The United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (known as Rio+20) called for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on Small Island Developing States (SIDS). The conference also recognized the importance of coordinated, balanced and integrated actions to address the sustainable development challenges facing SIDS.

1.1.2 The 67th UN General Assembly (UNGA) held in March 2013 in its modality resolution decided that Samoa will host the Third International Conference on SIDS and that the Conference should:

- a) Assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action (BPOA) and the Mauritius Strategy (MSI);
- b) Seek a renewed political commitment by all countries to effectively address the special needs and vulnerabilities of SIDS by focusing on practical and pragmatic actions for the further implementation of the BPOA and MSI;
- c) Identify new and emerging challenges and opportunities for the sustainable development of SIDS; and
- d) Identify priorities for the sustainable development of SIDS for consideration, as appropriate, in collaboration of the post-2015 UN development agenda.

1.1.3 The UNGA agreed that the SIDS Conference in 2014 should result in a concise, focused, forward-looking and action-oriented political document.

1.1.4 The UNGA also decided that regional preparatory meetings be convened in each of the three regions of SIDS in 2013. Fiji is to host the preparatory meeting for the Pacific SIDS on July 10th -12th 2013.

1.2 *National level preparations*

1.2.1 Through the Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development & Statistics (MSPNDS), the Fijian Government committed to preparing its own progress report. The national level preparation was undertaken in three stages.

1.2.2 The first stage involved preliminary consultations and internal assessments by the MSPNDS on the progress made by Fiji in the implementation of the BPOA and MSI. The outcome of this process was the compilation of issue papers covering various thematic areas under the MSI. Each paper focused on the major progress achieved

over the review period relevant to the MSI strategies, lessons learnt and gaps in implementation.

- 1.2.3 The second stage of national level preparations included stakeholder consultations involving a wide cross-section of stakeholders drawn from Government, private sector, non-government organizations, municipal councils and provincial councils. Two day consultative sessions were organized in the Western Division (Lautoka), Northern Division (Labasa) and Central Division (Suva) between the 23rd and 27th May, 2013.
- 1.2.4 The final stage involved securing political commitment in addressing the issues raised in the Report as well as defining a post-2015 focus for the Fijian Government. The Report was endorsed by Cabinet at its meeting on 18th June 2013.

1.3 **Theme**

- 1.3.1 The Fiji National Report carries the theme '**Accelerating Integrated Approach to Sustainable Development**'. Based on achievements to-date, lessons learnt and the need to further improve implementation, it is now recognized that a more targeted focus is necessary. Accelerating the integrated approach is the key to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our collective efforts towards sustainable development.

2. ASSESSMENT OF PROGRESS: 2010 – 2012

- 2.1 The MDGs and their associated targets and indicators, which were endorsed in the 2000 Millennium Summit, provide a recognized benchmark to gauge key elements in social, economic and environmental progress. In 2010, Fiji submitted a 5-Year Progress Report on the implementation of the MSI. The report noted that Fiji was on track to achieve five of the eight MDGs by 2015. This included MDG 2 achieve universal primary education, MDG 4 reduce child mortality, MDG 5 reduce maternal mortality, MDG 7 ensure environmental sustainability, and MDG 8 develop a global partnership for development. This progress was achieved in spite of weak domestic economic performance which was further constrained by the fallout from the global financial crisis, an underperforming exports sector, reduced private investment levels and rising imports. The report also acknowledged the challenge Fiji faced in achieving three goals vis-à-vis MDG 1 eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, MDG 3 promote gender equality and empowering women, and MDG 6 combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases.
- 2.2 The MDGs are mainstreamed into the Peoples Charter, which lays the foundation to rebuild Fiji into a nonracial, culturally vibrant and united, well governed, truly democratic nation that seeks progress and prosperity through merit based equality of opportunity and peace. The Strategic Framework for Change and the Roadmap lay out the specific policies and strategies to ensure successful implementation and achievement of MDG targets.

- 2.3 This report focuses on progress achieved in the period 2010 to 2012. Consistent with the approach of the national consultative process, the report assesses progress of thematic areas which have been grouped under three broad clusters: Environment and Climate Change, Economic Development and Social Development. The report has also been framed in line with the reporting template of UNDESA which requires an assessment of progress, consideration of lessons learnt and gaps in implementation, and the identification of new and emerging challenges.
- 2.4 Overall, Fiji has made some progress in implementing sustainable development strategies over the past three years. The draft Fiji MDG Scorecard (refer **Table 1**), provides a snapshot of progress since 2010. The Scorecard shows that Fiji remains on track to achieve five of the eight goals. While progress has been made in some areas under goals 1, 3 and 6, it has been assessed that these goals will unlikely be achieved by 2015. The progress over the past three years is reflected in the improvement of Fiji's HDI ranking from 108th in 2009 to 96th in the 2012 Human Development Report.
- 2.5 The progress made in the areas of primary education, improving infant and maternal health, environmental management and strengthening local and global partnerships have been achieved on the back of consistent and focused Government support. Over the past three years, Government has pioneered initiatives in the education sector such as bus fare assistance, distribution of free textbooks, school zoning and abolishing external examinations which has allowed previously marginalized school kids to improve attendance rates and access higher levels of primary and secondary education. The partnership between Government through the Ministry of Health and development partners has played a significant role in improving infant and maternal health.
- 2.6 As a small developing country dependent upon its natural resources for socio-economic development, adhering to environmentally sustainable practices continues to be a challenge. However, policies and strategies relating to sustainable environmental management have been mainstreamed into the development plans of all resource based sectors. In addition, there already exist legal and institutional frameworks that govern environmental management and thus support Fiji's progress in this area.
- 2.7 While Government has prioritized poverty alleviation, improving gender equality and combating HIV/AIDS, progress on these fronts has been slow. Based on the 2008-2009 Household Income and Expenditure Survey, the national incidence of poverty fell to 31% compared to 35%, 5 years earlier. However, the incidence of rural poverty increased in this period from 40% to 43%. Addressing rural poverty has been a major focus of Government's development agenda over the past three years with increased investment in basic infrastructure to create a conducive environment to stimulate economic development in depressed regions. Investment levels have increased from 14% of GDP in 2010 to 18% of GDP in 2012. It is envisaged that this growing

confidence in the Fijian economy will translate into more employment opportunities and improvement in living standards.

Table 1: Draft Fiji MDG Scorecard

MDG Target	Target for 2015	Status: will target be met?	State of supportive environment
MDG1: Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger			
1.A.	Halve the proportion of people living below the national poverty line	Unlikely	Fair
1.B.	Achieve full and productive employment for all including women and young people	Unlikely	Fair
1.C.	Halve the proportion of people suffering from hunger	Potentially	Strong
MDG 2: Achieve universal primary education			
2.A.	All children will complete a full course of primary education	Likely	Strong
MDG 3: Promote gender equality and empower women			
3.A.	Eliminate gender disparity in education	Likely	Strong
3.B.	Share of women in wage employment formal sector	Unlikely	Fair
3.C.	Proportion of seats held by women in n parliament	Unlikely	Weak
MDG 4:Reduce child mortality			
4.A.	Reduce child mortality by two-thirds	Likely	Strong
MDG 5: Improve maternal health			
5.A.	Reduce maternal mortality by 75%	Likely	Strong
5.B.	Achieve universal access to reproductive health services	Inadequate data	Weak but improving
MDG 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases			
6.A.	Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS	Unlikely	Strong
6.B.	Achieve universal access to treatment for HIV/AIDS for all who need it	Potentially	Weak but improving
6.C.	Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases	Likely for TB	Fair
MDG 7: Ensure environmental sustainability			
7.A.	Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reverse the loss of environmental resources	Potentially	Strong
7.B.	Reduce biodiversity loss	Potentially	Fair
7.C.	Halve the proportion of population without sustainable access to improved drinking water and sanitation	Potentially	Strong
7.D.	Achieve significant improvement in the lives of urban slum dwellers	Unlikely	Fair
MDG 8: Develop a global partnership for development			
8.A.	Develop further open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system	Potentially	Fair
8.C.	Address the special needs of SIDS	Potentially	Fair
8.D.	Deal comprehensively with the debt problems of developing countries	Potentially	Fair
8.E.	Provide access to affordable essential drugs	Potentially	Strong
8.F.	In cooperation with the private sector, make available the	Potentially	Fair

	benefits of new technology		
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Source: Draft Fiji MDG Scorecard, Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development & Statistics, 2013.

- 2.8 Socio-cultural barriers continue to hinder the empowerment of women, particularly in the rural setting. However, there is greater awareness and acknowledgement of the role and capability of women within Government as evident in improved representation in the senior executive service and on the Boards of public sector companies and statutory authorities.
- 2.9 Addressing the increase in the incidence of HIV/AIDS over the past few years presents a unique challenge for Government and advocates in civil society. On one hand, it reflects the growing challenge of containing the spread of the disease, particularly among the working age population, and on the other hand, it reflects the impact of awareness and sensitization within the community that breaks barriers and gives individuals the confidence to come forward and take a voluntarily test. Advocates working in this area attribute the latter as the main factor behind the increase in detection over the past few years.

3. ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE CHANGE

Under the cluster of Environment and Climate Change, there are five thematic areas which include Climate Change and Sea-level rise, Natural and Environmental Disasters, Management of Wastes, Freshwater Resources and Biodiversity. Overall, the progress in implementing strategies under these thematic areas has been positive, particularly in relation to putting in place institutional mechanisms. On the other hand, the effectiveness of these mechanisms, given resource and capacity constraints is an ongoing challenge.

3.1 *Climate Change and Sea level rise*

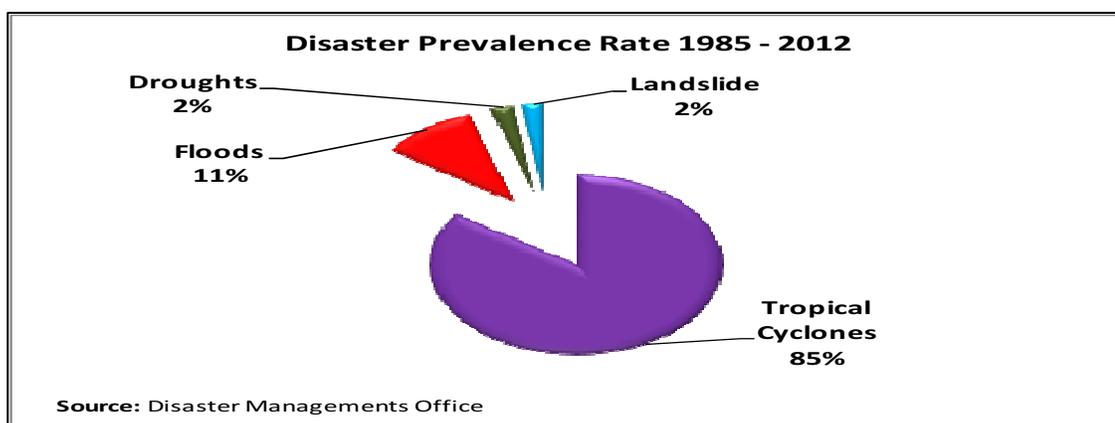
- 3.1.1 The adverse effects of climate change and sea level rise present significant risks to the sustainable development of SIDS. The long term effects threaten the very existence of some small islands. Since ratifying the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 1993, Fiji has pursued policies that recognize the importance of managing the environment and natural resources, to ensure social and economic prosperity in the present and for the future. While not a major contributor to climate change, Fiji, like other small island countries, is at the frontline of its impacts. Climate change is having a widespread impact, affecting all sectors of the economy from health, infrastructure, water resources, agriculture, forestry and fisheries. The burden of this impact is being shouldered more by the rural populace because of their dependence on vulnerable sectors such as agriculture and tourism, for their livelihood.
- 3.1.2 Government has endorsed a new National Climate Change Policy (2012). The policy defines objectives and accompanying strategies to mainstream climate change into relevant sector plans. It ensures Fiji meets its international commitments under the

UNFCCC and other international conventions such as the Convention on Biological Diversity and the UN Convention to Combat Desertification.

- 3.1.3 In addition, a Disaster Risk Reduction programme has been introduced to address the relocation of communities threatened by rising sea levels. In 2013, the village of Vunidogoloa in the province of Cakaudrove in the Northern Division became the first village to be relocated under the programme. At a regional level, Fiji is working with MSG countries on appropriate policies and strategies to address 'climate refugees'.
- 3.1.4 With the support from the UNDP and SPREP, the Pacific Adaptation to Climate Change Project was launched in 2010. The objective of the project is to address long-term adaptation measures in order to increase the resilience of coastal areas, associated infrastructure, water resources and food production to the adverse effects of climate change. For Fiji, the focus is on improving crop resilience and drainage systems in lowland farming areas in the Tailevu-Rewa and Serua-Namosi Provinces to deal with the impacts of climate change.
- 3.1.5 With increased NGO activities at community level, there is a need for better coordination and coherence with Government funded development initiatives in order to achieve beneficial results at the local level. The presence of a national level Steering Committee that links with a divisional office will assist provincial and district councils in ensuring initiatives implemented at the local level are relevant and consistent with national objectives. This would avoid duplication and overlap of development work at the local level.

3.2 **Natural and Environmental Disasters**

- 3.2.1 Fiji is located amongst the most vulnerable sub-regions in the Pacific in relation to the intensity and frequency of severe natural disasters which occur during the November-April wet/cyclone season. In the past 3 years, Fiji has endured two severe tropical cyclones and at least four major flooding incidences. As shown in **Figure 1**, approximately 85% of all natural disasters in Fiji over the past 30 years have been tropical cyclones, with an average of 2 cyclones occurring annually.



- 3.2.2 Government has implemented a number of measures with the support of development partners in the area of disaster preparedness, response and management. This includes the establishment of Earthquake Risk Management Committees to identify high risk zones around the country relative to tsunamis and earthquakes, the development of early warning systems through the media and electronic communications via agreements with Digicel Fiji, Vodafone and Telecom Fiji for Short Message Service (SMS) before and during disaster, the piloting of a flood warning and response system in Ba, building community capacity to develop disaster plans, undertaking awareness campaigns in schools, government agencies, and communities on the science of earthquakes and tsunamis and emphasizing the importance of identifying evacuation routes and locations, and undertaking training on traditional knowledge of food security such as the planting of short term crops that can be sustained for longer periods when disaster happens.
- 3.2.3 Fiji has also submitted a progress report on the implementation of the Hyogo Framework of Action which focuses on building the resilience of communities to disasters. At the community level, the number of donor-supported NGO managed community based multi-sector DRM programmes has steadily increased. Most of these programmes are implemented in partnerships with relevant government agencies. Community based institutions remain strengthened following the Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations (MORDI) approach currently implemented in 8 Pacific Island member countries of the International Fund for Agricultural Development. The MORDI Programme is aimed at supporting innovative, sustainable livelihood opportunities for the poor, vulnerable and isolated rural communities. In Fiji, the MORDI program was implemented in three districts from 2006 to 2012: Veinuqa in Namosi, Wailevu in Cakadrove and Kubulau in Bua. A total of 28 villages and a population of 2924 people were covered under the program.
- 3.2.4 Government is also developing its capacity to assess the macroeconomic impact of natural disasters. Following tropical cyclone Evan in December 2012, the Government prepared a Post Disaster Needs Assessment report. The report analyzed the socio-economic impact and identified areas of priority for assistance in the aftermath of the disaster. Cyclone Evan's impact on the economy was estimated to result in a 0.4 percentage point decline in the current growth forecast for 2013. The work was funded by the World Bank and supported by the Secretariat of the Pacific Community.
- 3.2.5 At a regional level, SOPAC began an Integrated Flood Management Project in 2011, with the Nadi catchment area as a pilot. The project will consider a mix of strategies and options to reduce losses associated with floods. These options will be evaluated based on technical feasibility, cost effectiveness and social viability.

3.3 *Management of Wastes*

- 3.3.1 With a growing population, increased urbanization, and changing consumption patterns, waste management has become a major concern in Fiji. The absence of appropriate

infrastructure and organized waste management systems are a major source of pollution. External support from regional and international organizations has allowed the implementation of various projects to address various waste management issues.

- 3.3.2 To improve the management of solid waste, a number of institutional measures have been implemented such as the review of the National Solid Waste Management Strategy 2005-2010. The new Strategy, covering the period 2011-2014, incorporates a new thematic area of Sustainable Financing to address waste management projects that are not dependent upon Government subsidies. The Litter Decree was amended in 2010 to allow Police Officers, Health Inspectors, Port Masters, Forestry Officers, Environment Officers, Land Transport Officers and other public officers to be appointed by the Minister for Environment as Litter Prevention Officers. The decree includes spot fines of FJD\$40 and has proven successful in minimizing littering in public places. Draft regulations to control plastic bag pollution were also developed in 2012 and are currently being discussed by stakeholders.
- 3.3.3 The Naboro Landfill is into its second year of the new two year operational contract. With support from the EU, the rehabilitation of the Lami Rubbish Dump project was completed in 2012. In addition, Government in partnership with SPREP initiated a project to integrate Climate Change Adaptation measures into the Waste Management Sector (AdaptWaste Project). The aim of the AdaptWaste Project is to improve waste disposal sites so that they are resilient to the direct impacts of extreme weather events and to minimise risks to human health and the environment from the disposal of disaster debris. The Labasa Town Dump is the main project site and to a lesser extent the Seaqaqa District.
- 3.3.4 On the regional front, Fiji has also benefited from regional programmes such as the Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme 2010-2014 which involves the regional management of oil spills and ballast water management, as well as addressing the transboundary movement of hazardous materials that are not covered under the Waigani Convention. This includes materials such as lead-acid batteries and tyres.
- 3.3.5 Support from JICA and Japan Technical Cooperation has allowed the implementation of the Waste Minimization and Recycling Promotion Project (2008-2012) that piloted the waste minimization practices such as the 3Rs (Reduce, Reuse and Recycle) in Nadi and Lautoka in the Western Division. A draft 3R policy was developed as an outcome of the Project. A successor project, the Project for Promotion of Regional Initiative on Solid Waste Management in Pacific Island Countries (2010 – 2015) was initiated in 2010, focused on replication in other municipal councils in Fiji and the Pacific region.
- 3.3.6 In 2011, JICA introduced a project to promote the Shibushi Model (waste minimization without incineration) from Fiji to Pacific Island Countries (2011 – 2013). The operating mechanism of the Shibushi city model project is education and awareness involving officials and committed citizens from Nadi Town Council and Lautoka City council and

also to some extent some other councils in Fiji. The project also covers neighbouring countries from Solomon Islands, FSM and Vanuatu. The Shibushi Project complements the Waste Minimization and Recycling Promotion Project through capacity building of officers involved in waste management.

3.4 Freshwater Resources

- 3.4.1 The accessibility of clean and safe piped water and efficient sewerage services are crucial for inducing greater economic activity and commercial developments. However, increased urbanization is putting greater pressure on this infrastructure. To date, close to 80% of Fiji's population have access to piped water with some form of treatment, while 40% of the population have access to sewerage facilities.
- 3.4.2 A number of institutional reforms have been undertaken in order to improve the delivery of services in this critical area. In 2010, the Water and Sewerage Department was corporatized into the Water Authority of Fiji (WAF). Government also endorsed a new Rural Water and Sanitation Policy in 2012. A Rural Water and Sanitation Plan has been prepared in order to improve water and sanitation services to the rural population. Government is also in the process of finalizing a National Water Resource Policy that will be the overarching policy on water resources management in Fiji. This Policy will be used as the basis for the formulation of a new Water Resource Management Decree.
- 3.4.3 Major public sector investments continue to be made in the upgrading and augmentation of water supply and sewerage schemes in the major centers, particularly to cater for the expanding population residing in the Suva - Nausori corridor. Similar work is being undertaken in the Western Division to cater for the increase in demand from the tourism developments along the Korotogo to Natadola corridor. Remote island communities are also assisted in the identification and development of their groundwater sources.
- 3.4.4 Equally critical are initiatives to protect the native forests and natural watersheds such as the GEF funded Integrated Water Resource Management project in Nadi. However, unsustainable landuse practices including logging, poor waste management, mining, poor farm and animal husbandry and various forms of pollution continue to threaten the integrity and safety of watersheds and water supply systems. Stringent monitoring and better coordination among enforcement agencies are required to address these practices.

3.5 Biodiversity Resources

- 3.5.1 Fiji signed the Convention on Biological Diversity at the Earth Summit in 1992. With the signing of the Convention, Fiji delivered its commitment by producing the National Biodiversity and Action Plan (NBSAP) in 2003 but was only endorsed by Cabinet in 2007. Fiji is signatory to other key conventions and protocols that are geared towards addressing loss of biodiversity resources such as the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety,

the Nagoya Protocol, Wetlands Convention and Convention on International Trade of Endangered Species of Wild Flora and Fauna (CITES).

- 3.5.2 The NBSAP was reviewed in 2010 and an Implementation Framework was drawn up to improve implementation and monitoring under seven new thematic areas: Inshore Fisheries, Species Conservation, Invasive Alien Species, Forest Conversion, Coastal Development, Inland Waters, and Protected Areas. Work is currently ongoing to address the gaps in the current NBSAP especially in terms of establishing monitoring and tracking tools to gauge the impact of implementation.
- 3.5.3 Government continues to engage with conservation-focused NGOs through MOUs in the implementation of programmes and activities under NBSAP. This includes, among others, establishment and management of community managed marine areas, establishment and management of national heritage sites, establishment and management of protected area sites, 'reef to ridge' concept of development and sustainable use of resources, Protection of Fiji's flora and fauna, and forest conservation initiatives under REDD Plus.
- 3.5.4 Through the National Environment Council a National Protected Areas Committee has produced a map of all Key Biodiversity Areas and Important Bird Areas in Fiji, a Draft map of Priority Terrestrial Protected Areas and Marine Managed Areas in Fiji and a Map of all Wetlands of Significance.
- 3.5.5 There are also regional initiatives such as the Mangrove Ecosystem for Climate Change and Alternative Livelihood (MESCAL) 2010 – 2012 and the Coral Triangle Pacific 2010-2012. MESCAL is a regional project funded by GIZ and implemented by the IUCN. The aim of the project is to value mangrove systems and demonstrate how conserving mangroves can address biodiversity. A demonstration site has been set up in Rewa with plans to set up models that can be replicated in other parts of Fiji. A review of the existing Mangrove Management Plan is also part of the project. The Coral Triangle initiative is funded through the ADB. The project involves the formulation of a proper coastal management plan. The province of Ra has been chosen as the demonstration site.
- 3.5.6 Fiji has also ratified the Nagoya Protocol which focuses on sharing the benefits from utilizing genetic resources in a fair and equitable way. There are a number of endemic species whose habitats are threatened by factors such as bush fires, deforestation, reclamation and unsustainable logging. More stringent enforcement of existing regulations is required to protect these species. Likewise, increased research is needed to better understand them and in the process have the right structures in place to protect them.

4. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Under the cluster of Economic Development, there are six thematic areas which include Coastal and Marine Resources, Land Resources, Energy, Tourism, Transport and Communication, and Science and Technology. Progress in implementing strategies under these thematic areas is the most challenging, particularly in a low growth environment. While legislative and institutional mechanisms exist, the lack of capacity to effectively monitor and implement these regulations is resulting in poor management practices. However, there remains strong political will to ensure a proper balance between the pursuits of economic objectives with environmental and social concerns.

4.1 *Coastal and Marine Resources*

- 4.1.1 The coastal and marine areas of Fiji contain a rich biological diversity which supports food security and economic development. Over the past decade, the impact of increasing human activities influenced by urbanization, globalization, and the market system has seen increased pressure placed on these resources. This has resulted in depleting fish stocks, loss of habitat and biodiversity, degradation of coastal zones and marine species including mangrove systems and coral reefs. Like other SIDS, these impacts have direct negative socio-economic repercussions on the Fiji's local population.
- 4.1.2 Over the past few years, Government has sought to address existing legislative shortcomings in the management of marine resources. The Marine Spaces Act Cap 158A and Fisheries Act Cap 158 are currently being reviewed in an effort to modernize Fiji's laws in line with international and regional obligations relating to fisheries management. Likewise a new Fisheries Aquaculture Decree and Inshore Fisheries Management Decree are being developed. Through technical assistance from the Secretariat of the Pacific Islands Forum Fisheries Agency, a new Offshore Fisheries Management Decree was gazetted in 2012.
- 4.1.3 Offshore tuna fisheries dominate the fisheries sector in output and value. Government is in the process of reviewing the existing Tuna Management and Development Plan to reassess the sustainable level of annual catch and number of licenses to operate within Fiji's EEZ. The management of the tuna stock has been an area of concern, not only nationally, but regionally and globally, particularly in the wake of intensive offshore fishing within the Western and Central Pacific Region. The new five year Plan will be finalized later in the year.
- 4.1.4 The incidence of illegal, unreported and unregulated (IUU) fishing activities in the high seas is a major challenge for small island countries. Coordination among enforcement agencies such as FRCA, Fiji Navy, MSAF and the local industry is being strengthened to improve monitoring, control and surveillance (MCS) activities of flagged vessels operating within Fiji's waters and beyond. This collaboration will improve the current

national observer coverage from 3% to the minimum 5% threshold. Support from the EU through the ACP Fish (II) Programme has also facilitated the development of a standard national MCS operations manual.

- 4.1.5 Government is enthusiastic about the economic potential of deep sea mining and is currently formulating the necessary legislation to facilitate Fiji's involvement in this segment of the industry. A precautionary approach is being adopted bearing in mind the potential environmental impacts.
- 4.1.6 Coastal and inshore fisheries are an important source of food security. In 2011, the Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) framework was developed. The province of Ra was identified as a pilot ICM site as part of the Coral Triangle Pacific Program to develop a provincial ICM plan. To date, nine community ICM plans have been developed for each Tikina (district) in Ra and a provincial level ICM action plan is currently being implemented. The project is being jointly implemented by Government in partnership with NGOs and USP.
- 4.1.7 Capital projects funded such as the Marine Resources Inventory Survey Programme and Makogai Mariculture Centre have assisted with the surveying 73 qoliqoli (customary fishing ground) and restocking of established Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) over the past few years. These programmes are complemented by NGOs under the umbrella FLMMA network that introduces modern conservation methods to coastal communities to ensure the sustainability of their individual qoliqoli. To date, a total of 250 of Fiji's 410 qoliqoli are under FLMMA which effectively protects 12% of inshore waters within qoliqoli. There are 376 MPA sites out of which only the Great Astrolabe Reef in Kadavu has been officially declared a marine conservation area.
- 4.1.8 Government has also taken measures to promote a sustainable approach in coastal developments. The National Mangrove Management Plan is currently being reviewed by the IUCN. A new Biodiversity Enhancement program has also been launched which will involve coastal communities in reseedling of mangroves. In addition, a 'Yau Bula' Management Committees have been set up with villages along the coastal areas of Vanua Levu to monitor and preserve marine resources.
- 4.1.9 The commercial development of the aquaculture sector has been hindered by high input costs. Government continues to support research and development in this area and training and extension support for interested farmers. Species currently being cultured include Tilapia fish, Prawn, Freshwater Carp and Milkfish.

4.2 Land Resources

- 4.2.1 As Fiji's population has grown, so has the demand placed upon land resources to meet growing basic needs of food and housing, as well as public services such as health, education, and provision of utilities (water, electricity, and telecommunication). These competing demands for land has given rise to problems of land degradation, rise in

squatter settlements, loss of arable agriculture land to commercial developments (e.g. tourism), and increased land disputes. Against this backdrop, Government initiated land reforms under the Peoples Charter in 2009 with the objective of improving access to land for those who need it, improving the productive use of land and ensuring an equitable sharing of benefits from the development of land.

Land

- 4.2.2 A number of initiatives have been implemented in line with Government's land reform agenda. A new Land Use Decree was promulgated in 2010 which would facilitate access to land for interested users or investors. Through the Decree, a Land Bank was established which would be a repository of land currently unutilized and made available for potential investors. Since its establishment approximately 70 parcels of land totaling 15,581 hectares of land has been deposited for potential agriculture, housing, tourism and mining developments. A total of 15 leases have been issued to investors by the Land Bank. A National Land Register is subsequently being developed to bring together information regarding land ownership, geographic positioning, estimated land value and area. This is being complemented by a Land Use Master Plan which will identify the best land use options given the characteristics of the land.
- 4.2.3 The amendment of the iTaukei Lands Lease and License Act 2011 has also ensured that all lease revenue is distributed equally to landowners. The administration cost involved will be borne by TLTB.
- 4.2.4 To support Fiji's international commitments to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Government in collaboration with UNDP reactivated the National Land Care Steering Committee in 2012 to consolidate the various Sustainable Land Management (SLM) initiatives within Government and also provide the policy direction on how SLM can be best incorporated into Government's National Land Use Plan.

Agriculture and Forestry

- 4.2.5 Over the past half century, the country has been dominated in output and value by the sugar industry. Recently, the tourism sector has surpassed sugar as the main foreign exchange earner. However, the sugar industry, and by extension, the whole agriculture sector, remains a key conduit for the socio-economic empowerment of Fiji's population, in particular, the 49% currently residing in rural areas. While the performance of the sugar industry has declined over the recent decades, due to erosion of market preferences, declined farm and mill efficiency, and land tenure disputes, there remains optimism over the potential contributions that other agricultural commodities can make towards the economic advancement of the nation.
- 4.2.6 Fiji's existing agricultural policy is focused on food security and gearing the sector towards export oriented growth. Food security is a growing concern for many nations, moreso for small island nations such as Fiji which is susceptible to volatile commodity

markets and natural disasters. Since 2010 the Department of Forestry has been mainstreaming food security into its existing policies and programmes under the Forestry Extension Program. Such activities include setting up of community fruit tree nurseries in rural areas around Fiji, and promoting agroforestry to improve soil fertility and agricultural yield.

- 4.2.7 Government continues its Pest Management programme. Through the project a number of plants and animals have been identified for research to determine effective control and mitigation measures. These include management of Coconut Pest, Taro Beetle, Fruit Flies, Wedelia, African Tulip, *Merremia peltata*, Rain Tree, and Chilly Anthracnose Disease. Over the past three years, the agriculture sector has had to deal with the outbreaks of termites, brucellosis disease affecting dairy livestock, and the American iguana affecting major dalo production areas. The addressing of these outbreaks has been supported by the new Bio Security Decree.
- 4.2.8 Value adding continues to be promoted in the agriculture sector. Programmes such as the Coconut Development Programme incorporate a product development component for products such as Virgin Coconut Oil and Soap. Value adding of root crops (cassava and dalo) into chips has also increased.
- 4.2.9 Government is also aggressively promoting local products through the 'Fijian Made and Buy Fijian Campaign' in 2011. The campaign positions Fijian made products in the international markets. Licensed companies and businesses are authorized via the Industry Emblem Decree and Regulations 2011 to brand acceptable products as either 'Fijian Made', 'Fijian Product', 'Fijian Packed', 'Fijian Crafted', 'Fijian Grown', 'Fijian Assembled', 'Fijian Designed' or 'Fijian Sewn'.
- 4.2.10 The National Forest Inventory and Fiji Forest Policy Statement provide the framework for the sustainable management of Fiji's forest resources. These tools represent a paradigm shift in the management focus away from timber production towards conservation and sustainable management. With emphasis on sustainable forest management, increased landowner aspirations, expansion in nature reserves, afforestation, climate change adaptation and globalization, there is more awareness on the social functions provided by forests to improve water source quality, improve agricultural land and reduce vulnerability to natural disasters especially flood mitigation.
- 4.2.11 Through collaboration with the local communities, Government has worked on establishing Sustainable Forest Management model areas. In the past few years, two model areas have been established in Nakavu (Namosi Province) and Drawa (Macuata Province). The local communities are being engaged to manage their forest resources. Government also successfully completed a 'Plant a million trees' campaign in 2010.

- 4.2.12 Engagement with stakeholders on forest conservation and forest policy has been institutionalized through the National Protected Areas Committee and Forestry Board, which comprise representatives from various government agencies and NGOs.
- 4.2.13 The Forest Decree 1992 and the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice have been reviewed and are awaiting Cabinet approval. Support continues for ongoing programmes such as establishment of Permanent Sample Plots and REDD Plus initiative.

Mining

- 4.2.14 Fiji has good prospects with regard to epithermal gold (associated with volcanic centres), porphyry copper-gold (Namosi), and smaller base-metal deposits (Udu, Wainivesi). Mining and exploration in Fiji has been dominated by gold production from Vatukoula mine however the existence of several mining prospects such as Tuvatu (gold mine), Wainivesi (copper mine), Mount Kasi (gold mine), Namosi (copper mine) and other solid mineral deposits could mean more revenue, foreign exchange, and employment from this sector than from Vatukoula alone. Fiji has been a major regional gold producer for more than 80 years.
- 4.2.15 Over the past three years, new prospects have been developed. This includes the mining of bauxite in Nawailevu in Vanua Levu and preparatory work on the Delta Iron Sand mine in Ba. With additional projects in the pipeline, Government recognized the importance of a sound regulatory environment to support the development of the mining industry. Government is close to finalizing a new Mineral Exploration and Exploitation Decree that will strengthen areas such as the need for Environment and Social Impact Assessments, OHS and stakeholder engagement.
- 4.2.16 In the quarrying segment, there is a locally operated cement company and several small industrial mineral quarries that produce construction materials, such as limestone, sand and gravel, and other construction aggregates. The sole Fijian cement producer, Fiji Industries Ltd produces portland cement and blended cement for the domestic construction market and for export to eight other Pacific island countries. In late 2010, Chinese company Tengy Cement Co. Ltd. was granted a 99-year industrial lease on 33 acres to build the second cement plant in Fiji.
- 4.2.17 The demand for construction materials over the past three years have been driven by investment in tourism projects such as the Grand Pacific Hotel, Denarau Casino Development, Wyndham Vacation Resort, and the recommencement of the Momi Bay Development. This was supported by increased public sector spending on infrastructure development and the construction of the hydroelectric dam in Nadarivatu.

4.3 Energy Resources

- 4.3.1 Fiji, like any other country in the Pacific shares the characteristic of high dependency on carbon-based fuels. Fiji is heavily dependent on imported petroleum products as a source of energy for its industrial, commercial and transportation sectors, as well as to supplement electricity generation for domestic consumption. Petroleum imports increased from around FJD\$400 million in 2004 to over FJD\$1billion in 2012, accounting for one third of total imports. This high dependence also increases vulnerability to fluctuation of world prices.
- 4.3.2 Fiji's National Energy Policy (NEP) is currently being reviewed. The NEP has four strategic areas: national energy planning, energy security, power sector and renewable energy. Around 60% of the country's electricity requirements are met from renewable energy sources which includes; 54.5% hydro, 4.3% biomass and 0.6% wind and other renewable resources. Imported petroleum for diesel back-up generators meets the remaining 40%.
- 4.3.3 FEA has completed a Power Development Plan up to 2020 which provides the roadmap for achieving the target of having 90% of the country's electricity requirements met from renewable energy sources by 2015. FEA plans to invest around FJD\$1.2 billion up to 2020 in parallel with around FJD\$300 million of private investment from Independent Power Producers and Public Private Partnership arrangements.
- 4.3.4 In 2012, FEA commissioned Nadarivatu Renewable Hydro Power facility. The facility has a capacity of 40MW and is expected to save FJD \$40million annually in petroleum imports. The facility cost USD\$150 million and was co-financed by the Government of Peoples Republic of China. Government continues to support FEA's proposed new energy developments, including the Wailoa Downstream, Qaliwana and the Navua upstream hydro projects to increase renewable energy generation in the country.
- 4.3.5 Fiscal incentives have also been offered to improve energy efficiency and encourage the development of renewable energy. In the transport sector, which accounts for around 42% total energy consumption, the development and use of biofuels is being supported. In 2011, renewable energy was been included as a sector to benefit from the RBF import substitution and export finance facility.
- 4.3.6 Government has also been focused on increasing access to electricity, particularly in the rural and remote areas. The 2007 Census revealed that 80% of Fiji's population has access to electricity. Governments Rural Electrification Programme has focused on increasing the coverage to the entire population by 2016. The expansion of renewable energy projects such as solar home systems are contributing to this goal. To date, 1800 solar home systems have been installed. This will be complemented by another 1000 funded by the Pacific Environment Community Fund later this year. Government has also commissioned 3 biofuel mills around the country with an additional 6 under

development. In expanding access to renewable energy technologies, monitoring and quality control mechanisms are being strengthened.

- 4.3.7 As part of its reforms, FSC is developing its capacity to convert ethanol from sugar cane production to meet its power requirements. There is also a significant volume of biomass from the timber industry available for power production. Tropik Wood Industries Ltd wood fired cogeneration plant has an installed capacity of 12.3MW.

4.4 *Tourism Resources*

- 4.4.1 Tourism continues to be the leading contributor of economic growth in Fiji. The sector has been growing consistently over the past three years. Visitor arrivals have risen annually to close to 700,000 in 2012 which has subsequently translated into increased tourism earnings. Most tourism operators recognize Fiji's competitive advantage in tourism and actively promote conservation and support measures to protect the local biodiversity in partnership with local communities.
- 4.4.2 Government is currently in the process of reviewing the Fiji Tourism Development Plan 2007-2016. The revision is based on the assessment that the existing Plan was more orientated as a marketing plan rather than a development plan.
- 4.4.3 Training programmes are regularly organized to build the capacity of small local operators in managing their business. These operators are mainly involved in providing backpacker accommodation. The training involves managing and planning as well as ensuring compliance with OHS standards and other regulatory requirements. There remains scope for expanding mobile training for small tourism operators in cooperation with training providers such as FNU, USP and APTC. The nature of training in the industry also needs to allow for the progress of Fiji nationals into managerial positions of major hotel chains operating in Fiji.
- 4.4.4 Major operators are embracing sustainable development principles consistent with the green growth concept and are introducing innovative solutions to improve waste management, recycling of water and improving energy efficiency. Partnerships between the local communities, NGOs and development partners has also resulted in the establishment of locally marine managed areas, nurseries and breeding sanctuaries for local wildlife such as turtles, and the growth of ecotourism through the promotion of protected natural reserves such as the Bouma and Lavena Forest Park on Taveuni, the upper Navua Gorge in the Provinces of Serua and Namosi, and Beqa Lagoon as a shark reef marine reserve.
- 4.4.5 To meet the growing demand for fruits and vegetables for the tourism sector, the majority of operators import from Australia and New Zealand as local farmers have been unable to meet quantity and quality requirements. Over the past 5 years, the import of fruits and vegetables has increased from FJD\$160million to over FJD\$240million. The establishment of a hydroponic facility by a local company to

supply the major hotels reflects the potential that can be harnessed. Initiatives by Government to boost local supply to the tourism sector have been thwarted by successive natural disasters and the lack of confidence that purchasing agents in hotels have towards local farmers given past experience.

- 4.4.6 The promotion of local delicacies and use of local food in hotel menus have been slowly gaining acceptance by local chefs.
- 4.4.7 The growing influence of the tourism industry in Fiji requires the adoption of long term plans in order to harmonize infrastructure needs, demand for utilities and impact on land use.

4.5 *Transport and Communication*

- 4.5.1 Fiji's transport and communications sector is well developed relative to other Pacific island countries. The Nadi International Airport is recognized as a hub for access to other Pacific islands by air. The major ports in Lautoka and Suva are on the path of major shipping lines and cruise ships. Fiji also has a well established road network system. The management of roads has been reformed in the past year as Government seeks to bring the management of Fiji's roads up to international standards. There is extensive telecommunication coverage in almost all parts of Fiji. The presence of the Southern Cross Cable has allowed the expansion of fast broadband in major centers. This has also been fuelled by the liberalisation of the telecommunication sector. The focus of Government has been on spreading the benefits of these advancements to the whole population, particularly those residing in rural areas.
- 4.5.2 In December 2012, Government endorsed the Maritime Transport Decree and the Ship Registration Decree. These legislations supersede the existing Marine Act and regulate the safety aspects of shipping and the processes and requirements for registering ships respectively.
- 4.5.3 To improve access to communities in the outer islands, Government continues to prioritize the construction of key regional jetties that would benefit many island communities. Government is also in the process of reviewing the existing shipping fares and freight rates for all sea routes.
- 4.5.4 As part of ongoing public sector reforms, the Department of National Roads was corporatized into the Fiji Roads Authority. The Authority was fully established on 1st January 2013 and will be responsible for all matters pertaining to construction, maintenance and development of roads in Fiji. During the first year of operation, Government has allocated around FJD\$422 million to improve the state of roads in the country. This includes major externally financed projects such as upgrading of the Buca Bay Road in Vanua Levu, Sawani/Serea Road, Sigatoka Valley Road, and Moto Road in Viti Levu. These projects are expected to be completed by mid 2014. The

upgrading of these roads is expected to provide critical market links for farmers and buyers and substantially reduce their business costs.

- 4.5.5 The use of Public Private Partnership to finance infrastructure development is also being pursued, in line with Phase Two of the Regional Transport Program for the Asia Pacific region under the UNESCAP framework 2012-2016.
- 4.5.6 Investments have been made in the past three years on improving the infrastructure in domestic airports (Labasa, Savusavu, Lakeba, Nausori, Nadi) to be in compliance with the ICAO standards.
- 4.5.7 Fijian airline Air Pacific has been rebranded as Fiji Airways in June 2013. The rebranding and purchase of three A330 aircrafts in 2013 is expected to boost the presence of Fiji internationally. New direct flights to Hong Kong from December 2009 and from Port Vila to Nausori from 1 July 2012 have commenced.
- 4.5.8 Since liberalizing the telecommunication sector in 2008, a number of additional measures and incentives have been introduced to expand the adoption of ICT in the economy. Telephone Registrations Decree came into effect from September 2010 to protect users from hoax calls and messages. Fiscal duty was also reduced on electronic devices such as smart phones and tax exemptions were granted to new and existing ICT operators in order to increase accessibility and use of broadband. A Telecommunications Levy of three cents from every dollar from incoming international call was introduced. The revenue is deposited in a Telecommunications Development Trust Fund Account and will be used for the development of the industry.
- 4.5.9 The Fiji National Broadband Policy was launched in 2011 which laid the foundation for the expansion of ICT services. Under the policy, an initial level broadband service has been made available to people who are able to access it at an affordable price and the service has a basic download speed of 256 kbps. The policy aims to provide all primary and secondary schools with broadband access by 2016.
- 4.5.10 In early 2012, Government launched Fiji's Spectrum Plan. In the first stage, a new free-to-air TV service provider license was issued to Fiji Broadcasting Corporation. Fiji now has three free-to-air channels and television coverage of the entire country. The second stage for TV broadcasting reallocation will require the migration of Pay TV Channels to UHF to free-up spectrum for additional free-to-air national channels, improving transmission quality. The third and final stage will transition national television broadcasting from analogue to digital.
- 4.5.11 The International Telecommunication Union, in its annual report 'Measuring the Information Society', publishes an ICT Development Index which combines 11 indicators into a single measure that can be used as a benchmarking tool globally, regionally, and at national level, as well as helping track progress in ICT development

over time. The index measures ICT access, use and skills, and includes such indicators as mobile cellular subscriptions, households with a computer, Internet users, fixed and mobile broadband Internet subscriptions, and basic literacy rates. The index captures the level of ICT developments in 155 economies worldwide. In its 2012 Annual Report, Fiji's ranking improved from 93 to 88. From a regional perspective, Fiji ranked 16 out of 28 countries of Asia and the Pacific.

- 4.5.12 To spread the benefits of the developments in ICT, telecenters have been built around the country to increase internet penetration and community access to broadband. In the past year, 6 telecenters have been opened with an additional 24 planned for the next two years. In 2012, Government also introduced a one percent levy on all voice bills including pre-pay cards. The revenue generated will be used to build capacity to increase internet penetration to isolated and marginalized areas.
- 4.5.13 The information age of today not only presents users with opportunities but also real threats associated with cybercrime such as identity thefts, fraudulent transactions, network intrusions and invasion of privacy. In recognition of this, a new Crimes Decree 2010 was promulgated to address these emerging cybercrime related offences. Government continues to work closely with organizations such as the International Telecommunication Union, Asia Pacific Technology, and other regional organizations to develop policies and regulations in the ICT sector.

4.6 Science and Technology

- 4.6.1 The advances in science and technology provide a conduit to improved economic performance via productivity and efficiency gains. The lack of funding, qualified personnel and state of the art facilities limits the extent of quality scientific research and technology development in Fiji. Under such a scenario, the opportunities lie in adopting and diffusing technology that have been successfully proven overseas and have been assessed to be suited to the local context. Strengthening science and technology curricula at all levels of the education system will allow the country to slowly build its human resource capacity to push the economy closer to the technological frontier.
- 4.6.2 Government is investing in new technology to improve service delivery. Initiatives that have been pioneered in the past few years include facilitating access to public services electronically, introduction of electronic bus ticketing system, installation of VSAT in rural communities, the 'One Laptop Per Child' programme initially targeting 30 remote schools, and the opening of 6 telecenters in the past year that opens up internet access to rural communities. Complementary efforts are being directed to strengthen the teaching of science programmes in schools.
- 4.6.3 At a regional level, USP have established a Renewable Energy Research and Technology Transfer Centre at the Faculty of Science, Technology and Environment. The Center is expected to play a key role in research and development of renewable

energy technology in the Pacific. It will also act as a virtual hub for communication and information exchange between Pacific island countries. There is also scope for tapping private sector expertise in technology research.

- 4.6.4 Through bilateral cooperation, Fiji is also being exposed to new technology that can support development. In May 2012, Government signed a MOU with the Government of Korea to expand scientific and technical knowledge exchange in the field of ocean science and technology. At a local level, through technical cooperation with the Government of India, a group of ten women studied solar technology at the Barefoot College in India to better understand their roles in setting up solar equipment in their villages.

5. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Under the cluster of Social Development, there are four thematic areas which include Education, Health, Knowledge Management and Information for Decision Making, and Culture and Heritage. Fiji has made significant positive progress in implementing strategies under these thematic areas. This is reflected in the improvement of Fiji's HDI ranking in the past three years from 108th in 2009 to 96th in the 2013 Human Development Report.

5.1 Education

- 5.1.1 An educated population is an important pre-requisite for national development. It improves the prospect for lifting people out of poverty. The focus of Government's policies has been on making Fiji a knowledge-based society. Improving access to quality education is a major priority.
- 5.1.2 Fiji is well on its way to achieving the MDG of universal primary education through new initiatives such as bus fare assistance, free textbooks and stationeries, implementation of school zoning, abolition of external examinations, food voucher assistance, and establishment of infant schools. Primary school enrolment and net enrolment have increased since 2009. The dropout rate of pupils from Class 1 to Class 5 has decreased from 1.37% in 2009 to 0.35% in 2011. Class 5 survival ratios improved from 85.8% in 2009 to 94.2% in 2012. The 2010/2011 Employment and Unemployment Survey revealed that 47% of the children aged 5 were attending Early Child Education, 99% of students aged 6 to 13 were enrolled in Primary school, 88% of students aged 14 to 18 were enrolled in Secondary school, and 40% of students aged 19 to 21 were enrolled in a Tertiary institution. While females outnumber males in primary school enrolment, the trend is reversed in secondary school.
- 5.1.3 Funds channeled to the education sector have averaged 11.5% to 13% of the total budget over the past three years. This is the largest proportion given to a single sector of the economy. Government funding has been complemented by support from development partners such as AusAID, NZAID, EU, UNDP, JICA, UNICEF and SPC.

Donor funding of close to FJD\$70million has supported programmes such as the Future Support to Education Sector /Access to Quality Education Programme, Fiji Education Sector Programme, National Initiative for Civic Nation, Fiji In-schools Citizenship Education Programmes, construction of USP/ICT Centre, Human Development and Human Security ICT Project, FNU - Education Programme and National Initiative for Civic Education.

- 5.1.4 Government has also pursued programmes focused on the special needs and further development of children and youth. For example, the Fiji Financial Education Curriculum Development Project, launched in 2011, gives children in primary and secondary schools an opportunity to build life-long skills in financial and business management. As part of the initial roll-out in 2012, new methods of teaching financial education were piloted in twelve primary schools. This included new educational games, such as "Beware the Money Snakes" and "Time Saver", which were designed to teach students how to understand and perform money calculations, differentiate between needs and wants, and be able to accurately track and record their income and spending. In addition, a National Youth Policy (NYP) was endorsed by Government in 2012 and Strategic Plan of Action 2012-2014 subsequently developed which sets out an implementation framework to mainstream youth development into various focal areas of national development.
- 5.1.5 The development and promotion of TVET continues to be prioritized with twenty vocational centres targeted for upgrading as part of the strategy to expand vocational training. In 2011, it became compulsory for students in the academic stream to pursue at least one TVET subject.
- 5.1.6 Investments are also being made to improve the delivery of distance learning through partnership with Telecom Fiji Limited. The distance learning centre was trialed in 2010 in Wainimakutu Secondary School and Kadavu Provincial Secondary School.

5.2 Health

- 5.2.1 A healthy and productive population is central to sustained economic and social development. Similar to many developing countries, the Fiji health system is attempting to cope with the triple burden of communicable disease, non-communicable disease and injuries. Health service delivery continues to be challenged with the shortage of medical professionals and inadequate health facilities, particularly in the rural areas. Consistent with Government's direction towards decentralization of health services to the community level, medical equipments have been procured and a number of nursing stations and health centers constructed in the past three years, with the aim of making health services more accessible to people in the rural areas.
- 5.2.2 Fiji has made progress in most of its health MDG indicators such as life expectancy, maternal and infant mortality and child mortality. However, the incidence of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) is a growing concern, with 82% of deaths on an

annual basis related to NCDs. In addition, the cumulative incidence of HIV/AIDS in 2012 has increased to 482, from 366 in 2010. New reported infection cases increased from 33 in 2010 to 62 in 2012, posing an added challenge to achievement of MDG 6 (Combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases). The significant increase in outreach programmes to conduct voluntary counseling and testing in 2012 as an initiative to screen for HIV in the community, contributed to the increase in detection.

- 5.2.3 Strengthening human resources capacity within the health sector remains a priority area for Government. Over the past three years, 56 medical officers and 170 nurses have been added annually to the health workforce. Policies have also been implemented to improve retention of health professionals and address issues of career path, salaries, working conditions and international networking. A Strategic Training Plan 2011- 2015 has been implemented to widen ongoing education locally and abroad with career orientation for young doctors.
- 5.2.4 As part of the decentralization of health services, the Village Health Workers Scheme has been re-activated to provide basic first aid and medical treatment at the village level. These health workers also support primary health services by keeping nurses informed on developments in the village such as ensuring prenatal checkups for pregnant women.
- 5.2.5 External support for Fiji's health system comes from a number of bilateral and multilateral partners such as WHO, UNFPA, UNICEF, SPC, Global Fund for AIDS, TB and Malaria, AusAID, NZAID, JICA, India, Korea, and the People's Republic of China.
- 5.2.6 To improve access to quality medicines, an Essential Medicine List of 450 medicines has been developed. The medicine prioritized are for treating diseases such as NCDs, HIV, TB and other short term acute diseases. The medicines in this list are provided free to the general public. The procurement of these medicines is subject to a pre-qualification process to ensure that substandard drugs are not procured. Since 2011, the Fiji Commerce Commission has placed a further 75 essential medicines under price control to ensure accessibility to the public.
- 5.2.7 Newborn and child health are central to the agenda of primary health care. During the review period, Government continued to work with development partners to support access for children's health through various interventions, such as the Child Health Policy and Strategy launched in 2012, distribution of Iron supplements to children as part of the fight against Anaemia, revitalization of Integrated Management of Childhood Illness programme for improved child care in health facilities nationwide, expanded Programme on Immunization for global eradication of diseases such as polio and measles, gazetting regulations on Marketing Controls for Foods for Infants and Young Children in May 2010 and breast-feeding Hospital Initiatives for all maternity facilities.

- 5.2.8 Three new vaccines have also been added to Fiji's immunization programme. Two of the vaccines (pneumococcal vaccine and rotavirus vaccine) are expected to curb infant deaths caused by pneumonia, meningitis and sepsis. The third vaccine - human papilloma virus (HPV) vaccine – is being administered to young girls in primary schools to protect them from cervical cancer. This initiative is supported through a co-sharing arrangement with AusAID.
- 5.2.9 In 2011 the Mental Health Decree was promulgated to decentralize mental health services from St Giles Hospital to the community level. This led to the establishment of Stress Management Wards in 3 divisional hospitals (CWM Hospital, Lautoka Hospital and Labasa Hospital), with the view to improve accessibility and reduce stigma associated with psychiatric conditions. Community mental health outreach clinics are conducted on a regular basis in Central, Northern and Western divisions.
- 5.2.10 The Communicable Disease Information System (CDIS) at the Ministry of Health comprises several surveillance systems that are used collectively or individually at the local and national level to detect priority communicable disease cases and/or outbreaks. The CDIS components have passive and active processes that allow for real-time as well as sentinel data management, thereby reporting and improving response at the local and national level of the Fiji health system. Components of the CDIS are linked to the Pacific Public Health Surveillance Network.
- 5.2.11 The National Taskforce on Communicable Outbreak Prone Diseases was revitalized in 2012 to control outbreak prone diseases through the reduction of the relevant risks to communities throughout Fiji. There are four technical working groups that provide input to the taskforce, namely: Epidemiology, Surveillance and Research, Clinical Management, Control and Prevention and Communication. Between 2010 and 2012, Government developed the National Health Information Policy 2011 and National Health Information Strategic Plan 2012-2016, to address the fragmentation of health information systems in Fiji, which often resulted in support for individual projects rather than a more comprehensive system approach. The health information systems have already led to timely detection of several disease outbreaks in areas, including dengue and diarrhoea.
- 5.2.12 During the review period, various measures have been implemented to strengthen response at the community level and mobilize resources to better respond to the prevalent national health disasters. A permanent position for Disaster & Emergency Coordinator has been established under the Ministry of Health to coordinate health preparedness and response to cyclones and other disasters such as disease outbreaks. An Emergency Operation Centre (Command Centre) is fully functional at the Ministry of Health Headquarters, where backup generators have been installed to ensure continuity of service and resilience to disasters.

- 5.2.13 The revision of the Health Emergency and Disaster Management Action Plan 2013 – 2017 has been completed, and the standard operating procedures are currently being developed for all health workers. A simplified checklist for Safe Health Facility monitoring has been adopted to ensure compliance with safety and health standards.
- 5.2.14 Over the past three years, Government has promulgated a number of decrees and regulations in an effort to modernize the regulatory framework for the health system in Fiji. Major legislations include Nurses Decree 2011, Implementation of the Tobacco Control Decree 2010, National Toothpaste standards, Implementation of the Ambulance Decree 2010, Marketing Code of Controls of Unhealthy Foods and Non-Alcoholic Beverages Advertising to Children, Implementation of Mental Health Decree 2010, HIV/AIDS Decree 2011, Food Establishment Regulation, Food Content Labeling Regulation 2012, Ratification of the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control Articles 15 – Protocol Elimination of Illicit Trade in Tobacco Products and Optometrist and Dispensing Optician Decree 2012. The current review of the Public Health Act (1978) into a new Decree called the Public Health Protection Decree would encompass the proactive approach for public health interventions.
- 5.2.15 Government has also developed a National Medicine Policy which sets the policy direction for the development of the system of traditional medicine in Fiji. A country situational analysis was conducted in February 2013 by the WHO and Government will progress the implementation and monitoring of the National Medicine Policies with the Indian and Chinese Government Representatives.
- 5.2.16 Work aimed at reducing risk factors to human health arising from the environment will continue in the area of safe water supply. The Fiji National Water Quality Standards was adopted in 2011, which supports the development and implementation of risk management strategies that would ensure the safety of drinking water supplies in urban, rural and island communities of Fiji through the control of hazardous constituents of water. The Ministry of Health, in partnership with the Water Authority of Fiji, conducts monthly surveillance of water supply quality and facilitates water and sanitation improvement projects in rural communities.
- 5.2.17 The Rural Local Authorities have introduced garbage collection service schemes in rural areas and various rural garbage disposal dumpsites are being identified for proper management of solid waste. In addition, modern incineration facilities have been installed to treat health care waste in major referral hospitals in Suva, Lautoka and Labasa. These facilities will also be installed at the sub divisional level.

5.3 Knowledge management and information for decision making

- 5.3.1 ICT has the potential not only to create jobs but also to empower citizens with information and low cost access to services. Through the E-Government Project, investments have been made over the past few years to improve the IT services and infrastructure within government in order to efficiently and effectively meet the needs of

its various stakeholders. As a result, a number of government services are now delivered over the internet. The project has paved the way for investors and businesses to apply online for foreign investment approvals, business registration and for forestry and property development licences. It has also provided citizens with easier access to Government departments and the ability to extract information such as exam results, scholarship application forms or apply for registrations of births, deaths or marriages.

- 5.3.2 Information sharing and interface between government agencies is also a key component of the E-Government project with investments made in improving the IT infrastructure such as server capacity, expanded Govnet outreach, and a data hub. These investments complement existing programmes such as the development of the Fiji Land Information System (FLIS).
- 5.3.3 The FLIS is being developed to computerize the core land information that exists in various government and non-government agencies. These include: land title records with the Registrar of Titles, ownership and boundary survey and maps and records with DLS, and the native land ownership records with the NLFC. Currently there are 24 computerized and operating systems residing in government agencies such as the Department of Lands and Survey, Registrar of Titles, Native Lands and Fisheries Commission, ITC and Department of Town and Country Planning, which is supported by FLIS.
- 5.3.4 The development of FLIS will support Government's land reform through the development of a national land register which integrates information on land type, past and present activity, nature of tenure and landuse capability. These investments are part of Government's overall development strategy of improving the management of Fiji's natural resources through more informed decision making by integrating currently segregated information.

5.4 Culture and Heritage

- 5.4.1 Culture plays a pivotal role in Fiji's socio-economic development. Of particular relevance is its potential to address problems of unemployment and poverty faced by women and youth today. Cultural and creative industries can serve as tools for revenue generation and sustainable livelihood. Government recognizes that investing in conservation of cultural resources, promoting cultural activities, traditional knowledge and skills are effective means to strengthen environmental sustainability and the social capital of communities.
- 5.4.2 Various institutional measures have been implemented to support the development of cultural industries. A National Cultural Policy is currently being developed. The policy will bring together and streamline all culture-related legislation, policies, strategies, institutions and activities at the national level to minimize duplication and set a clear direction for the development of cultural activities.

- 5.4.3 In 2012, an Intangible Cultural Heritage (ICH) Toolkit was developed and published. The ICH Toolkit will assist communities and institutions map their resources for cultural purposes. A Traditional Knowledge and Expressions of Culture Decree is also being developed. When promulgated, the Decree will ensure the protection of traditional knowledge systems from inappropriate commercialization.
- 5.4.4 A Cultural Industries Strategy is also being developed to facilitate the establishment of a cultural industries structure. In recognizing that culture-related data is minimal due to lack of technical expertise, a draft Cultural Statistics Framework has been developed to facilitate the collection of cultural statistics to assist in national economic strategies and policy advice. Both the Cultural Industries Strategy and Cultural Statistics Framework will be completed by end of 2013.
- 5.4.5 A framework on iTaukei Research has been drafted to establish the principles and protocols when researching in iTaukei communities. Further, a draft Cultural Education Strategy is earmarked for completion by 2013. The Strategy will address the compulsory status of cultural studies in schools.
- 5.4.6 The Fiji Heritage Decree has been drafted to protect key heritage sites in Fiji. The work emanates from current efforts to list the Historical Port Town of Levuka as a UNESCO World Heritage Site. A nomination dossier was submitted in 2010 to justify the enlisting of Levuka as a World Heritage Site.
- 5.4.7 In 2010, in recognizing the importance for promotion, protection and preservation of Fiji's knowledge systems for current and future generations, Fiji ratified the UNESCO 2003 Convention for the Safeguarding of the Intangible Cultural Heritage.
- 5.4.8 Government funded programmes to protect tangible and intangible cultural heritage that are ongoing include the iTaukei Cultural Mapping Programme and Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA). A total of 235 villages were mapped over the past three years mainly in the Bua, Ra and Naitasiri provinces. This process includes identifying cultural resources in the community for communal intellectual property purposes, promoting cultural industries, revitalizing endangered heritages as well as for the purposes of archiving for future generation. The AIA facilitates archaeological mapping of traditional sites before development on a piece of land can take place.
- 5.4.9 In 2010, Government established a Special Revival Unit to look into the revitalization and promotion of cultural elements. Its task includes organizing skills and cultural product development workshops in communities. Work over the past three years was undertaken in five provinces (Rewa, Lomaiviti, Ra, Kadavu, Tailevu).
- 5.4.10 A new Fiji Intellectual Property Office was established in 2010 to ensure protection of intellectual property. The Office is managed by a steering committee chaired by the

Solicitor-General and consists of stakeholders, including the Fiji Audio Visual Commission, Police, Fiji Performing Rights Association, Fiji Revenue & Customs Authority, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, University of the South Pacific, and Investment Fiji.

5.4.11 Through the Cultural Grants Programme, Government supports initiatives under seven areas: Community Cultural Development, Dance/Meke, Literature and History, Music, Performing Arts Touring, Visual Arts and Crafts, and Capital Infrastructure. Over the past three years, 13 projects were funded under this programme. Other institutions such as the iTaukei Trust Fund Board provide similar assistance which was directed towards: Sponsorship for iTaukei Drama (Lakovi), Ketekete Qele (iTaukei Legend drama), Vakavovotu Workshops, Publishing and printing of books and periodicals and advisory services.

6. LESSONS LEARNT AND GAPS IN IMPLEMENTATION

6.1 In the implementation of various strategies, a number of lessons can be drawn that can provide guidance to improved implementation performance and achievement of MSI objectives:

- (i) Lack of adequate resourcing of national capacity – Over the past three years, the Government has formulated or reviewed numerous policies and strategies, and promulgated or revised various pieces of legislations in all thematic areas. However, the implementation of these new policies or effective enforcement of new regulations are hindered by the lack of capacity (human resource, financial, capital equipment) within key implementing agencies. This needs to be addressed in order to realize the intended benefits from the new policies and legislations.
- (ii) Need to improve partnerships and institutionalizing stakeholder networking, coordination and cooperation – The programmes or projects that have been proven successful over the past three years share a common element of strong and consistent stakeholder partnership in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the project. Institutionalizing the engagement of all stakeholders in any development activity will provide a strong foundation for long term project sustainability, improve cost efficiency and ensure stakeholder ownership. Strengthening partnerships between all stakeholders (Government, non-government organizations, private sector, municipal councils, rural local authorities, development partners, resource owners and community) will provide leverage against the capacity constraints that may exist within the group.
- (iii) Need to improve synergy in individual sector plans – The cross-cutting nature of issues relating to sustainable development requires harmony and synergy in

the directions that Government is planning to develop each sector of the economy. For example, the implementation of an agricultural growth strategy will have implications on landuse practices, disaster mitigation, human resource development, food security, modes of transportation, and infrastructure priorities, to name just a few. Recognizing these areas of synergy is important to ensure sector plans complement each other in achieving the overall vision of Government. Individual sector plans also need to factor DRM and DRR strategies as part of overall efforts of strengthening resilience.

- (iv) Need to establish reliable database on environmental indicators – The Fiji Bureau of Statistics collects significant economic, social and demographic data. The collection of technical data related to environmental indicators and climate is usually undertaken in isolation at agency level. The absence of a central database for the collation, analysis and reporting of environment and climate change related data is a constraint for effective policy making and development planning. Improvement in information sharing is also essential, particularly in the area of disaster risk management to ensure that sufficient input from technical agencies with focus on mapping of hazards and vulnerabilities and ensure the development of sound risk management systems and processes.
- (v) Need to develop and strengthen institutional arrangements and compliance under rural setting – Fiji has reviewed a number of legislations under the various thematic areas over the past three years. Unfortunately, many of these new legislative requirements are only regulated and strictly monitored in urban areas. Stringent monitoring compliance and enforcement is necessary in rural areas to protect biodiversity, water sources, and forest areas.

6.2 There have also been areas under the MSI for which implementation has lagged behind:

- (i) Limited regional cooperation – There remains a lot of scope for cooperation among the Pacific island countries in sharing country experiences of best practices in resource management modalities, particularly given the common development challenges faced by all countries. Areas for regional cooperation which has been lacking is in the development of ICT, tackling vulnerabilities to volatile world commodity markets, development of offshore tuna fisheries, and human resource development (encouraging labour mobility).
- (ii) Better use of economic instruments – There is greater scope for the use of economic instruments in areas such as waste management, resource utilization and management and transport sector related pollution. Wider use of ‘polluter pays’ principle can provide incentive for improved awareness and management of the environment and natural resources.

- (iii) Accessing climate change financing – The international community needs to look at streamlining and simplifying the requirements for small island countries to access international climate change financing. Support is required to harmonize national systems with these requirements.

7. KEY ISSUES

7.1 During the consultative workshops a number of issues were raised in relation to Fiji's current development path and its implications for the future:

- (i) Equitable access to water – Access to water is a basic human right. However, apart from the capital city of Suva and its surrounding peri-urban areas, most other areas around the country face intermittent water supply. This is related to high leakage in the systems (between 50% to 60%) and the inability of existing infrastructure to cope with demand. In many instances, commercial demand (e.g. from major tourist hotels) are prioritized over demand from the local surrounding population. The capacity to consistently provide access to safe drinking water has not kept pace with the increased demand due to decades of residential, commercial and industrial development. Natural watersheds need to be protected to safeguard water sources. Investments need to be focused on identifying and developing dedicated water sources for each urban center to cater for the future growth in population. There is an urgent need to ensure equitable access of this basic human need to every household in Fiji, irrespective of its location.
- (ii) Social and cultural impact of ICT – The advancements in ICT have brought many benefits, but also challenges for a relative conservative society such as Fiji. There is concern over the impact that increased internet use and social networking is having on the younger generation, particularly in exposing them to violence and pornography at an early age. The linkage between internet use with a notable increase in sexual crimes, child abuse cases and violent crimes need to be investigated. The traditional social setting in the village is also being eroded with increased accessibility to internet, particularly through smart phone technologies.
- (iii) Survival of local culture and traditional practices – The modernization of society, a by-product of globalization, is a threat to retaining iTaukei culture and its practices. The impact of the commercialization of iTaukei culture is evident in the increased quantity of fake goods or imported goods being sold as locally made in the tourism industry. Other signals to a waning cultural conscience is in the wider use of English as the language of communication among iTaukei youth and the growing gap between the traditional knowledge and skills of elders and the younger generation because these skills and knowledge is not

being passed down. While Fiji's rich cultural diversity should be celebrated, it must be recognized that iTaukei culture is unique to Fiji. The revival and celebration of iTaukei culture, needs to be mainstreamed into the education system, promoted in national events such as school cultural competitions and education programmes such as 'Noda Gauna' and 'We ni Yava'.

- (iv) Focus on Men's health – Women have a higher life expectancy than men in Fiji. Likewise, men have a higher incidence of NCD related illnesses compared to women. In a cultural setting, men are the head of the households and main decisionmaker. In the majority of households, men are also the main or sole breadwinner. In such a scenario, more effort needs to be made to address men's health because of the socio-economic role they perform. Issues such as excessive yaqona consumption, unhealthy dietary practices and an inactive lifestyle need to be addressed.
- (v) Level of vulnerability to natural and man-made shocks – The relative frequency and intensity of natural hazards suffered by Fiji over the past five years and the spate of global shocks channeled through commodity markets highlight the fragility of the nation with respect to social and economic advancement. These hazards have reinforced the need for international support in building economic resilience as years of good progress can be undone through a single catastrophic event.
- (vi) Building Fiji's competitive advantage as a hub for Pacific Island Countries – Strengthening regional cooperation and trade can be mutually beneficial for all Pacific countries. Fiji needs to fully tap into the opportunities as a hub of the Pacific given its geographical location, presence of major air and sea infrastructure, and favourable level of development relative to other Pacific island countries. As one of the more developed countries in the region, Fiji also has a responsibility to work with other Pacific Island countries to build their respective economies and raise the standard of living of the peoples of the Pacific.
- (vii) Managing urbanization and rural development – For the first time in Fiji's history, more people now reside in urban areas than rural areas (51%). Increased urbanization has placed significant pressure on urban infrastructure to cope with growing demand. Major services providers (water, electricity, housing) are playing 'catch-up' in developing new capacity to meet demand. As a result, other challenges have emerged for major urban centers such as waste management, explosion of squatter or informal settlements, high urban unemployment and increased illegal activity. While working to manage the challenges in urban center, focusing on addressing the 'push' factors in rural areas by creating viable social and economic opportunities is equally critical.

Significant investments will be required over the next decade from Central Government and Local Government level to effectively address this challenge.

8. NEW AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

8.1 *Strengthening governance*

- 8.1.1 A sound system of Government founded on the principles of good governance is essential to achievement of Fiji's socio-economic development objectives, including successful implementation of the MSI for the BPOA. Strategies have been adopted to address fundamental flaws in public administration including the country's electoral system, divisive race-based politics, lack of accountability for public officials and inefficient public sector service delivery.
- 8.1.2 Since 2009, the Fijian Government's strategic priorities to ensure the principles of good governance have been applied to the State's formal institutions and to how the country is governed on a daily basis has focused on: Formulation of a Just and Fair Constitution; Strengthening Law and Justice and the Accountability Framework; Enhancing Public Sector Efficiency, Effectiveness and Service Delivery; and Ensuring Effective and Enlightened Leadership.

Efficient Public Sector Service Delivery

- 8.1.3 The Fijian Government's Public Sector Reform Programme 2010-2014 is aimed at: improving the performance and efficiency (cost effectiveness) of the civil service; increasing profitability and enhancing accountability of public enterprises; and strengthening public financial management practices. Implementation to-date includes: short-term merit based civil service appointments; outsourcing of ancillary health services; corporatization of water supply and roads construction and maintenance services; and restructure of the mahogany industry to facilitate private sector entry. Government's cash accounting system has also been strengthened to comply with International Public Sector Accounting Standards with plans in place to implement accrual accounting in 2015. Improving public sector accountability, efficiency and effectiveness is an ongoing challenge to ensure public services meet the expectations of the people of Fiji.

Return to Democratic Government

- 8.1.4 Preparations are underway to hold general elections in September 2014. An Electronic Voter Registration System has been developed to correct anomalies present in past voter rolls. To date, about 80% of an estimated 607,000 eligible voter population have been registered and issued voter identification cards. The country's three major existing political parties have all been registered under the Political Parties (Registration, Conduct, Funding, Disclosure) Decree 2013, which contains new conduct standards and rules for campaign financing and disclosure of assets. Election

officials will be appointed, and rules and regulations for the conduct of the poll adopted, following promulgation of the new Constitution.

Fiji's New Constitution

- 8.1.5 In 2012, nation-wide public consultations were carried out by a Constitution Review Commission, which produced a Draft Constitution in January, 2013. The Draft was revised and published by Government for another round of public consultations till 30th April, 2013. Key provisions in Fiji's new Constitution will include:
- The abolishment of communal voting and representation in Parliament and introduction of equal suffrage and equal representation under a multi-member electoral system and proportional representation Open List Voting system.
 - A Bill of Rights that ensures a human rights approach to national development, through socio-economic rights provisions which obligates the State, subject to available resources, to afford all citizens equal access to: an education including early childhood and higher education, housing and sanitation, economic participation, work and a fair minimum wage, adequate food and water, social security schemes and health services.
 - More direct accountability of the Fiji Military Forces to the democratically elected Government and Prime Minister as Commander-in-Chief.
 - An accountability framework that protects the independence of the Fiji Independent Commission Against Corruption (FICAC), requires holders of high public office to publicly disclose personal assets and provides for the enforcement of conduct standards by an Accountability & Transparency Commission.

Transnational Crime

- 8.1.6 Fiji is a regional transport hub for the South Pacific and has a fairly developed financial system. As such, transnational organized crime involving money laundering and human and drugs trafficking is a serious challenge. The Fiji Police Force has a dedicated Transnational Crime Unit and inter-agency cooperation has been strengthened in recent years amongst the Immigration Department, Bio-Security Authority of Fiji, Customs Service, Financial Intelligence Unit and Border Police Units with RFMF support. Terrorism offences in compliance with UN and international obligations have also been adopted under the Public Order (Amendment) Decree 2012.

8.2 Human trafficking

- 8.2.1 Fiji has been identified as a potential transit country for human trafficking, a potential destination country for foreigners forced into labor and prostitution, and potential source country for internal sex trafficking. The Government acknowledges that human trafficking is occurring in Fiji and has taken steps to ensure an effective law enforcement response and adequate support for victims.
- 8.2.2 Victims are allegedly exploited in illegal brothels, local hotels, private homes, and other locations around the country and prostitution of Fijian children has become a serious

challenge for law enforcement and social welfare authorities. Many Fijian children are sent by their families to live with relatives or families in urban centres to complete their education and some are at risk of being coerced into prostitution to meet economic needs.

Social Protection

- 8.2.3 Law reforms have been carried out in the last 4 years to bring Fiji's legal framework on human trafficking and forced labor and prostitution in line with international human rights conventions. These laws include the Employment Relations Promulgation (2007), Domestic Violence Decree (2009), Crimes Decree (2009), Criminal Procedure Decree (2009), Sentencing and Penalties Decree (2009) and the Child Welfare Decree (2010). The Crimes Decree provides comprehensive anti-trafficking offences for both domestic and international cases with penalties of up to 25 years imprisonment and fines of up to FJD\$400,000. In 2007-08, the US State Department rated Fiji a Tier 3 country, the worst possible rating for countries not doing enough to combat human trafficking. Since adoption of the Crimes Decree and National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, Fiji's status has improved to Tier 2 (see Trafficking in Persons Report 2012, US State Department).
- 8.2.4 The Fiji Police Force established a Human Trafficking Unit with detectives working exclusively on investigations into human trafficking. The Unit works closely with the Department of Immigration and the Police Transnational Crime Unit. The Police Human Trafficking Unit continues to conduct training for personnel at many police stations on how to detect human trafficking related cases. Anti-trafficking training is also provided, as part of human rights training, to military personnel prior to deployment on international peacekeeping missions.
- 8.2.5 Since 2010, despite limited resources, victim protection services have been provided following increased efforts to identify and protect trafficking victims. Due to limited resources, Government is partnering with Non-Government Organizations and development partners for long-term care facilities and specialized services for trafficking victims.
- 8.2.6 Reasonable attempts are made to ensure trafficking victims are not penalized for unlawful acts committed while being trafficked and victims detained by police are referred to the Human Trafficking Unit for assistance. The Immigration Department and the Police Human Trafficking Unit have developed guidelines to identify potential trafficking victims and similar standard operating procedures are also in place for immigration officers. In 2012, the Ministry of Labour developed a database on child labor statistics, which will assist in efforts to identify, protect, and assist child trafficking victims.
- 8.2.7 Public awareness campaigns with NGOs are part of the Fiji Police Force's community policing initiatives. Effectively combating human trafficking requires a comprehensive

response and support from all stakeholders in Government, civil society and the private sector.

- 8.2.8 Fiji is still heavily reliant on the support from development partners to build its capacity in particular to enable specialized support services for victims of human trafficking including development of specialized care facilities, access to legal aid, medical, and psychological assistance. While Government is taking steps to develop and strengthen its procedures for the identification of victims of trafficking, more work needs to be done to assist vulnerable groups like migrant workers, prostitutes and child labourers.

9. CONCLUSION

- 9.1 The United Nations Conference for Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro in 2012 (known as Rio+20) called for the convening in 2014 of a third international conference on SIDS. The 67th UN General Assembly (UNGA) held in March 2013 in its modalities resolution decided that Samoa will host the Third International Conference on SIDS and that the Conference should assess the progress to date and the remaining gaps in the implementation of the BPOA and the MSI.
- 9.2 Through the MSPNDS, the Fiji Government committed to preparing its own progress report. Following a consultative process undertaken over two days in the major centers – Suva, Lautoka, Labasa – a report was compiled and subsequently endorsed by Cabinet on 18th June 2013.
- 9.3 Overall, Fiji has made some progress in the implementing sustainable development strategies over the past three years. As reflected in the draft Fiji MDG Scorecard, Fiji remains on track to achieve five of the eight goals. This included MDG 2 achieve universal primary education, MDG 4 reduce child mortality, MDG 5 reduce maternal mortality, MDG 7 ensure environmental sustainability, and MDG 8 develop a global partnership for development. This progress was achieved in spite of weak domestic economic performance which was further constrained by the fallout from the global financial crisis, an underperforming exports sector, reduced private investment levels and rising imports. While progress has been made in some areas under MDG 1 eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, MDG 3 promote gender equality and empowering women, and MDG 6 combating HIV/AIDS and other diseases, it has been assessed that these goals will unlikely be achieved by 2015. The progress over the past three years is reflected in the improvement of Fiji's HDI ranking from 108th in 2009 to 96th in the 2012 Human Development Report.
- 9.4 Under the cluster of Environment and Climate Change, there are five thematic areas which stakeholder discussed. This included Climate Change and Sea-level rise, Natural and Environmental Disasters, Management of Wastes, Freshwater Resources and Biodiversity. Overall, the progress in implementing strategies under these thematic areas has been positive, particularly in relation to putting in place institutional

mechanisms. On the other hand, the effectiveness of these mechanisms, given resource and capacity constraints is an ongoing challenge.

- 9.5 Under the cluster of Social Development, there are four thematic areas which include Education, Health, Knowledge Management and Information for Decision Making, and Culture and Heritage. Fiji has made significant positive progress in implementing strategies under these thematic areas.
- 9.6 Under the cluster of Economic Development, there are six thematic areas which include Coastal and Marine Resources, Land Resources, Energy, Tourism, Transport and Communication, and Science and Technology. Progress in implementing strategies under these thematic areas is the most challenging, particularly in a low growth environment. While legislative and institutional mechanisms exist, the lack of capacity to effectively monitor and implement these regulations is resulting in poor management practices. However, there remains strong political will to ensure a proper balance between the pursuits of economic objectives with environmental concerns.
- 9.7 In the implementation of various strategies, a number of lessons can be drawn that can provide guidance to improved implementation performance and achievement of MSI objectives. These included:
- (i) Lack of adequate resourcing of national capacity;
 - (ii) Need to improve partnerships and institutionalizing stakeholder networking, coordination and cooperation;
 - (iii) Need to improve synergy in individual sector plans;
 - (iv) Need to establish reliable database on environmental indicators; and
 - (v) Need to develop and strengthen institutional arrangements and compliance under rural setting.
- 9.8 There have also been areas under the MSI for which implementation has lagged behind. These gaps have included:
- (i) Limited regional cooperation;
 - (ii) Better use of economic instruments; and
 - (iii) Accessing climate change financing.
- 9.9 During the consultative processes, various issues were raised by participants as central to Fiji's current development path and its implications for the future. They included:
- (i) Ensuring equitable access to water;
 - (ii) Managing the social and cultural impact of ICT;
 - (iii) Concerns of the survival of local culture and traditional practices;
 - (iv) The need to focus on Men's health issues;
 - (v) The level of Fiji's vulnerability to natural and man-made shocks;

- (vi) The need to build Fiji's competitive advantage as a hub for Pacific Island Countries; and
- (vii) The need to manage urbanization and rural development.

9.10 Fiji is also grappling with the challenge posed by strengthening the nation's governance framework as a platform for sustainable growth and future prosperity, and combating the root causes of human trafficking. Fiji will rely on the support of the international community to deal with these challenges, particularly the later which is new phenomenon for local security agencies.

10. POST- 2015 PRIORITIES

10.1 In the wake of an increasingly competitive global environment and constrained by our vulnerability from both exogenous and endogenous factors, the Fijian Government is shifting its focus to a more targeted approach post - 2015. The extensive coverage of the MSI has tended to spread limited resources across a wide area resulting in slow and ineffective implementation. A new integrated approach is necessary, with all stakeholders including Government, private sector, non-government organizations, development partners and the community, collectively working together for the common good.

10.2 The goals of development cannot be achieved without economic growth. The focus therefore will be on further reforming the existing enabling environment to better attract private investment and nurture economic growth. Growth must be broad based and inclusive with all sections of the community partaking and benefiting in the process. Future development plans will be built around 'Green Growth' strategies to enhance management of resources for current and future generations. Human resource development will be at the core of these strategies to build capacity for future innovation and enterprise.

10.3 In managing the impact of climate change, the focus will be on adaptation and mitigation through building community resilience, strengthening food security, enforcement of standards on buildings and structures, and protecting coastal communities through bank protection and reinforcement or relocation. With support from development partners, a renewed focus will be placed on strengthening data collection, management and dissemination to improve decision making at all levels of governance.

ABBREVIATIONS

ADB	Asian Development Bank	OHS	Occupational Health and Safety
AIA	Archaeological Impact Assessment	RFMF	Republic of Fiji Military Force
APTC	Australian Pacific Technical College	SIDS	Small Island Developing States
BPOA	Barbados Plan of Action	SLM	Sustainable Land Management
DRM	Disaster Risk Management	SOPAC	Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction	SPC	Secretariat to the Pacific Community
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone	SPREP	Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme
EU	European Union	TB	Tuberculosis
FEA	Fiji Electricity Authority	TVET	Technical Vocational Education and Training
FLMMA	Fiji Locally Managed Marine Area	UNDESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
FNU	Fiji National University	UNDP	United Nations Development Program
FPF	Fiji Police Force	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
HDI	Human Development Index	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
ICAO	International Civil Aviation Organisation	UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
ICM	Integrated Coastal Management	UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
ICT	Information Communication and Technology	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature	USP	University of the South Pacific
IUU	Illegal, Unreported and Unregulated	WAF	Water Authority of Fiji
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	WCS	Wildlife Conservation Society
MCS	Monitoring, Control and Surveillance	WHO	World Health Organization
MDG	Millennium Development Goal		
MESCAL	Mangrove Ecosystem for Climate Change and Alternative Livelihood		
MORDI	Mainstreaming of Rural Development Innovations Programme		
MPA	Marine Protected Area		
MSG	Melanesian Spearhead Group		
MSI	Mauritius Strategy for the Implementation of the Barbados Plan of Action		
MSPNDS	Ministry of Strategic Planning, National Development and Statistics		
NBSAP	National Biodiversity Strategic Action Plan		
NCD	Non-Communicable Disease		
NEP	National Energy Policy		

STAKEHOLDERS CONSULTED

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