



Provincial Target Setting Workshop Brief

The purpose of this provincial target setting workshop is to provide stakeholder provincial and district participants with information on the newly funded AusAID project titled “Building Resilience- strengthening community adaptation measures to effects of climate change in the Fiji Islands”. This project will aim to identify, showcase and protect key biodiversity attributes which will support the resilience of coastal ecosystems and communities to the impacts of climate change. At the national level, work will focus on supporting the development and implementation of effective national adaptation management plans, support the mapping of critical and vulnerable coastal areas so that critical biodiversity attributes are maintained, ensure policies are strengthened to include the adoption of community-based and ecosystem-based management priorities, approaches and mechanisms. The project will focus on two provincial regions of Ba and Macuata. The main collaborative national project partners include the Department of Environment, Department of Land Use Planning, Live and Learn Environmental Education and WWF- the Global Conservation Organization.

Project Context

Building Resilience and strengthening community adaptation measures to effects of climate change in the Fiji Islands. Why is this important?

At present, Fiji focuses its limited resources and capacity to address immediate socio-economic development needs. The increasing challenges posed by climate change will in all be a stumbling block to hindering future development and exacerbating local socio-economic vulnerabilities at provincial level. The link between adaptation and development is particularly relevant when seeking to enhance the capacity of people and communities to adapt to climate change in Fiji. Vulnerability to climate change cannot be only reduced by mitigation of Greenhouse gases GHG emissions and by adaptation to impacts of climate change, but also taking into consideration any development aimed at improving and ensuring the viability of living conditions, with access to resources by those experiencing the impacts for this will enhance community’s adaptive capacity. Therefore, it is essential that this project develop cross-cutting national, provincial, district and island level plans for climate smart adaptation and disaster risk reduction focusing on understanding and increasing resilience of both human communities and natural ecosystems, keystone to any development in an island setting like Fiji. The actions that will be undertaken by the project will ensure there is effective synergy in national climate change policy framework sensitive to provincial and district level adaptation needs thus facilitates win-win scenarios.

The Importance of Mangroves and their Influencing Benefits for Coral Reefs- Why Mangroves Exactly?

WWF with its project partners has developed and testing an adaptation approach through resilience building in high biodiversity tropical mangrove areas and associated coral reef, sea-grass and upland ecosystems across its community project sites in Fiji. It is recognized that there is a strong need to collaborate with local natural resource managers, government departments and other stakeholders, to integrate climate smart adaptation strategies into their management philosophies and plans.

Mangroves are unique ecosystems but often poorly appreciated for the ecological value as they act as buffers between terrestrial and marine environments. Mangroves are herald for the coastal health for environment, providing connectivity and the perpetuation of biodiversity for natural ecosystems. Mangroves provide natural shields and may prove to be an effective adaptive measure against storm surges, coastal erosion and higher tides associated with climate change and extreme events. The interplay of ecological services between mangroves and coral reefs makes the pairing of adaptation strategies for both ecosystems concurrently a wise approach with coral reefs threatened by increasing sea surface temperature due to global warming.

Fiji has the third largest mangrove area in the Pacific region. Climatic variation (windward-leeward effect) across the larger islands in Fiji influences mangrove distribution and ecology, and different locations are expected to experience distinct effects due to climate change. There will also be differences in the rate of sea level rise within Fiji, as certain areas are experiencing tectonic uplift or subsidence, while others are tectonically stable. In addition the various mangroves areas on the mainland islands are experiencing different levels of impact and intensity from human development. Such characteristics make mangroves especially important for coastal human communities and emphasizes the need for greater efforts towards its management and protection on a national scale.

Provincial Stakeholders Target Setting - What we hope to accomplish with this workshop

WWF and its national project partners intend to facilitate a series of provincial target setting workshops with Ba and Macuata provincial stakeholders respectively, as initial steps to identifying key climate induced vulnerabilities and the prioritization for climate smart adaptation needs.

The three day provincial stakeholders' target setting workshop is to provide information about the project, conduct an orientation process regarding the key baseline information for profiling each provincial setting prior to the confirmation of district sites for enhanced project implementation. This target setting workshop provides an opportunity to gauge the various tikina stakeholders present and explore collaboration in mainstreaming generated project outputs in a well diffused manner into national-provincial planning mechanisms.

The Ba Provincial Target Setting Workshop is scheduled for 27-29 June, 2011 and to be held at Lautoka. The Macuata Provincial Target Setting Workshop is scheduled for 6-9 July, 2011 and expected to be held at Labasa.



For more information

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