

# Climate leadership by the Fiji islands

## Fiji hosts Climate Change Action Partnership meetings 2017 – Implementing Marrakesh Partnership

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*In May and October 2017 Fiji hosted Marrakesh Climate Change Action Partnership (CAPP) meetings, which will continue during Fiji's Presidency of COP23.*

### Marrakesh Climate Change Action Partnerships

**Marrakesh partnership meetings** provide a platform for non-state stakeholders to assist governments with advancing the Paris Agreement. The work of the Partnerships includes setting out tracking mechanisms for delivery on commitments by non-party stakeholders and voluntary initiatives. 80% emissions are from industry so the engagement of the private sector is needed in all countries.

The October meeting in Fiji was held just prior to the PreCOP. They have introduced the Talanoa Dialogue for the COP23 negotiations. Talanoa Dialogues are for assessing the collective process of implementing the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions –inclusive of a coalition of cities, businesses, NGO's – a broader agenda than the former Facilitative Dialogue. Adopting Pacific language introduces new frameworks; Talanoa, means careful discussion in the context of hospitality, with a strong emphasis on listening and respect; bula, below, is a Fijian greeting. Use of Pacific language denotes an emphasis on relational processes of reciprocity and mutual respect.

**Pacific Islands have 12 votes in the UN**, although there are 22 Small Island States in the Pacific. The Pacific UN member states are mobilizing the Marrakesh Partnership by hosting this Climate Change Action Partnership (CCAP) meeting of heads of governments (or representatives) in the Pacific and non-State Actors – private sector, regional organizations, NGO's.

The overall priority for Fiji as the President of COP23 is to **accelerate implementation** of the Paris agreement. The Fiji Climate Champion emphasized the role of the **private sector, and civil society**. Noted the need to integrate climate responsibility with SDG's. The Pacific Partnership for Climate Action is composed of Pacific technical experts, private sector and civil society.

### Pacific Agenda for COP23

Priorities for the Fiji Presidency were specified at the CAPP meetings and PreCOP: the Indigenous Peoples Platform, Disaster Risk Reduction, Oceans, and the Gender Action Plan.

Pacific Islands have priority interests of Climate as a matter of survival – and this is indeed a matter of chance, particularly for atolls. Non-state Actors have a corresponding responsibility to that of states, and thereby call for collective responsibility as part of the imperative for all global citizens.

Climate change is a matter of **security** for Pacific islands and they are advocating for climate change to be on the agenda of the Security Council.

The venue in Bonn, for the COP23 summit will be in two main parts: The Bula Zone is where the implementation of the Paris Agreement will take place, and the Bonn Zone is where the Climate Action Agenda will take place.

## Climate Chance 2018

The **Fiji High Level Champion** (Hon. Seruiratu), was at Climate Chance in Agadir, in September, and we are continuing to be in touch with the Climate Chance organizers with a view to hosting a Climate Chance ‘moment’ in Fiji in 2018, with a view to involving **Climate Fiji Chief Negotiator** Nazhat Shameem-Khan and **Fiji Permanent Ambassador to the UN**, Peter Thompson.

A Climate Chance moment in Fiji would strengthen the inputs of the Pacific region – could be mobilized through a Climate Action Collaboration Forum.

## Climate Adaptation and Finance for Pacific Islands

**The emphasis** for Pacific Islands is on **Adaptation** because of impact of oceans rising and changes in rain patterns, and hurricanes now and anticipated, regardless of changes towards reducing emissions globally.

Needs for resilient infrastructure such as housing, internet, transport, power, roads are paramount, which links to the significance of Climate Financing, which is the only mechanism for achieving adaptation in the different sectors. Already Fiji has a policy of relocation of villages, and this work has begun in anticipation of the impact of oceans rising on coastal villages.

Investment in forests, sustainable agriculture, food security, oceans and EEZ protection, and fisheries requires climate finance. Water and sanitation are top priorities for adaptation.

**Disaster Responses** are a significant matter for non-State actors, as these implement responses to disasters

Pacific region brings traditional and **indigenous knowledge** to the forefront of climate responses. This is valuable for traditions of integrated knowledge systems, capacity to incorporate physical and metaphysical/spiritual dimensions. Traditional and indigenous knowledge is the basis for community-led initiatives, implemented through ecosystem adaptation activities

**NDC’s** can be used as a structuring tool for climate transitions through the 5 yearly reassessments. National budgets need to reflect the NDC’s green approach.

**Oceans** – support international community to realize that oceans are a shared resource

The ocean is intricately linked to the heart, soul, identity, culture, resilience, economy and way of life of Pacific islanders while playing a major role in regulating climate. We recognize the synergies between the implementation of the Paris Agreement and the SDGs including SDG14 further contributing to SDG7 and, SDG13 and that the protection of biodiversity and ecosystem services including urgently reversing the decline in ocean health and productivity are integral parts of climate change mitigation and adaptation and can galvanize climate action and vice versa.

Recommendations of the Oceans Sector include a Global Work Programme to oversee research and monitoring of changes to the ocean environment. Action for Oceans requires a collaborative approach because it brings together so many sectors in Pacific Islands – fishing, transport, food security and livelihoods, international law and business, land management, science. A integrated action plan is a priority, along with the wider agenda of enabling the global community to appreciate the significance of oceans to the climate system.