

SIDS (Pacific Island Countries) Capacity-Building Training Programme on the Implementation of the Jaipur Declaration on 3R and Circular Economy (2025-2035)



The Republic of Fiji

Policy initiatives, programmes, and projects towards Jaipur 3R & Circular Economy Declaration (2025-2035)

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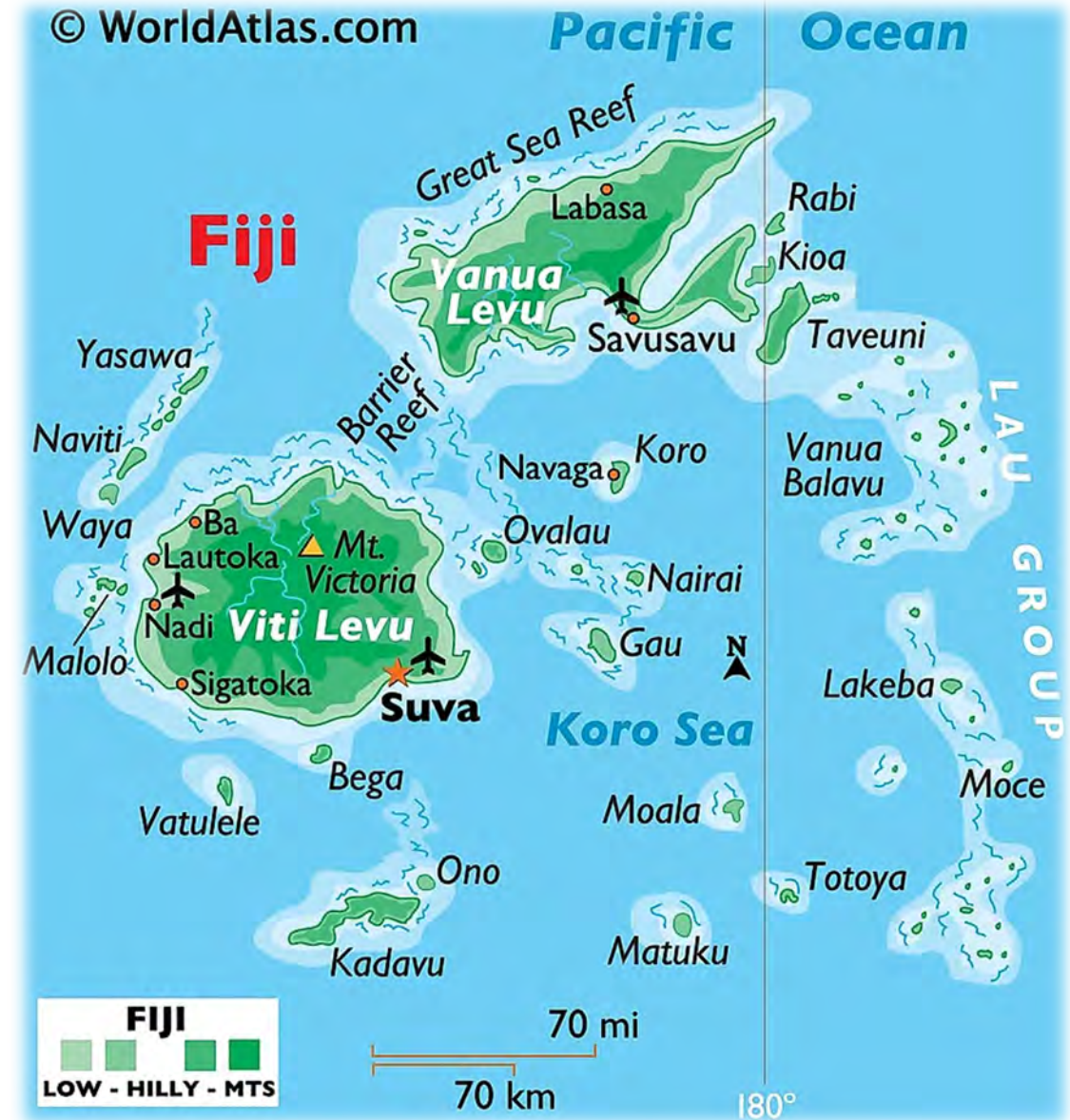
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Presentation focus

- **Introduction to Fiji's waste management framework**
- **National policy initiatives**
- **Ongoing government programmes**
- **Donor Funded support Projects**

Introduction

- Fiji is a nation exposed to the impacts of; climate change, natural disasters and waste problems.
- Total population of 924,145 with more that 300 islands of 2 major cities and 11 towns spread along the coastline of Viti Levu and Vanua and the Old capital in Ovalau Island.
- Proper waste collection and waste disposal are recognized in the towns and cities.
- Peri-urban and rural communities are limited to proper waste collection and waste disposal.



<https://www.worldatlas.com/maps/fiji>

Waste management overview in Fiji

- Waste management and pollution control are serious challenges, which have the potential to derail Fiji's economic development. Inadequate management of wastes and poor control over polluting activities can affect the health of Fijian communities, degrade natural ecosystems and reduce their resilience to climate change impacts.
- **Fiji National Development Plan 2025-2029 and vision 2050**
 - Focus Area 6: Chapter 8: Developing public infrastructure, protecting, environment and addressing climate change. Sub chapter on; water and waste water, solid waste management, environment and climate change and national disaster risk reduction.

National Policies

- Waste Management and Pollution Control Unit is mandated to oversee the safeguard of the environment from waste & pollution issues, guided to enforce the following legislations' and policies;
 - (i) Environment Management Act 2005
 - (ii) Environment Management (Waste Disposal and Recycling) Regulations 2007
 - (iii) Litter Act 2008
 - (iv) Also responsible to process Plastic Import Permits as per the Customs (Prohibited Imports and Exports) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.
 - (v) Environment Management (Exemption Plastic Bags) Regulation 2021
 - (vi) Environment Management (Polystyrene Products Exemption) Regulation 2021

Internal Policy

- i. Clean Environment Policy 2019
- ii. 7R Policy on Waste Management 2022: 7R Waste Management Policy: with the 7Rs being reduce, rethink, refuse, reuse, repurpose/repair, recycling and recover. It sets out a comprehensive framework to advance Fiji's Waste Management efforts and a Zero Waste Ambition drive.

Ongoing Government Programs

- **Container Deposit Regulations (CDR)**

The Ministry allocated funds is targeting for Consultancy for the development of the Container Deposit Regulations (CDR). Cabinet has approved to revisit the prerequisites prior to the drafting of the Regulations. A Container Deposit Regulation is a practical and effective solution for addressing waste management issues in Fiji, while offering multiple environmental, economic, and social benefits.

- **National Waste (solid, liquid & wastewater) Management and Pollution Control Strategy**

The Ministry allocated funds targets to engage a consultant to cater for the review and revalidation of the National Waste Management and Pollution Control Strategy (Strategy) and 10 year implementation plan.

The Strategy is expected to address all wastes and pollution control issues throughout Fiji, which includes but is not limited to: Municipal solid waste, liquid waste, chemicals, hazardous wastes, air pollution, greenhouse gases, ozone depleting substances, and other wastes (disaster waste, tyres, and end-of-life vehicles).

Ongoing Government Programs

- Regular enforcement and environmental monitoring inspections carried out to all business operators across Fiji to ensure compliance with the relevant legislations.
- Business Roundtables (ongoing) to raise awareness on the environment safeguard legislative requirement for efficacious control and the sustainable use of natural resources, protection of the environment from waste and pollution.
- Litter Prevention Officers' (LPO) Trainings in all Government Ministries and Municipal Councils with the intention of strengthening the enforcement of the Litter Act to prohibit littering in public places.
- National Cleanup campaigns with waste segregations' led by the Ministry and government of Fiji across litter hot spot sites in the country. Waste collection for recycling purposes is carried out by recycling facilities such as Pacific Recycling Foundation, Mission Pacific and South Pacific Waste Recyclers.

International Engagement

Stockholm Convention: National Implementation Plan 2022 has been submitted to Convention Secretariate this year. This would support Fiji's decision towards the ratification of the Basel and the Rotterdam Conventions.

Waigani Convention: Fiji processes request for export/import/transit transboundary movement of hazardous waste.

Fiji as a UNEP member country has been actively negotiating the text of the legally binding instrument for plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Fiji is proud to join the High Ambition Coalition noting plastic pollution poses a direct threat to the livelihoods, health, and ecosystems of Pacific Island nations. Our membership reaffirms Fiji's dedication to championing a treaty that takes a bold and comprehensive approach to addressing the plastic crisis.

Donor Funded Projects

- Waste Management Programme, **PacWastePlus**, is funded by the EU and implemented by the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) to sustainably and cost-effectively improve regional management of waste and pollution. The project started in 2018 and has end in June 2025.
- **Recycle Organics Program** is a global program in its seventh year of operation. It has recently expanded its activities into the Pacific Region, with financial support from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The goal is to accelerate the implementation of methane mitigation projects in the waste sector and to create enabling conditions for a sustained expansion of organic waste management technologies that bring significant environmental, economic and social benefits.

Upcoming donor funded project

- **“Implementing Sustainable Low and Non-Chemical Development in Small Island Developing States” (ISLANDS)** is funded through GEF 7 cycle with the overarching objective to support a safe chemical development pathway by strengthening Small Island Development States (SIDS)’ ability to control the flow of chemicals, products and materials into their territories, and to unlock resources for the long-term management of chemicals and waste, including integrated chemicals and waste management.
- **“Promoting circular economy and resource efficiency in plastic value chain in Fiji”** will contribute to Fiji’s inclusive and sustainable industrial development through the promotion of circular economy and resource efficiency practices in plastic value chains in order to mitigate the impact of plastic pollution while contributing to the implementation of the 20-Year National Development Plan of Fiji. Funding has been approved by the Government of Japan.

Upcoming donor funded project

- In 2025, UNEP was granted a project through the Japanese Supplementary budget, titled **‘Emergent plastic pollution reduction and management for recovery from the livelihoods and health crisis (Thailand and Fiji)’**. The project contributes to Output 2, 3, 5, and 6 of the UNEP One Plastic initiative. The project aims to address the urgent humanitarian crisis caused by accumulated plastic pollution in Thailand and Fiji. The project will mainly support the following countries: Thailand and Fiji. A Small Scale Funding Agreement which will end in March, 2026 upon signing.
- **Sustainable Waste Action in the Pacific (SWAP) Project:** Fiji was part of the SWAP Phase 1 project- University of the South Pacific (USP) did the implementation of the Marine Litter activities. A feasibility study was developed to inform the design of the SWAP2 project. responding to the ongoing and evolving waste management challenges faced by Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs).

Future collaboration plans

- Plans is under ways for the development of waste transfer stations and Sanitary Landfills in Vanua Levu. Plans for the rehabilitations of current dump sites in the Western Division.
- Strengthening collaborations with recycling facilities in country to extend scope of recycling efforts. Operating Recycling plants: waste oil, waste lead acid batteries, waste office papers, scrap metals for steel mill.
- Improve process in the transboundary movement of hazardous waste. Encourage recycling facilities in Fiji to export recycling waste to overseas recycling purposes.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

