

## Reflection on UNFCCC SB 58 Meeting in Bonn Germany 5th to 15th June, 2023



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## **Local Communities and Indigenous People Platform (LCIPP)**

Under the Paris Agreement and Decision 1/CP.21, climate change is a common concern of humankind so when taking action to address climate change, the respective obligations on, inter alia, the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities should be respected, promoted and considered. Hence, it was decided to Establish a Local Communities and Indigenous People Platform (LCIPP) for the exchange of experiences and sharing of best practices on mitigation and adaptation in a holistic and integrated manner . The LCIPP focuses on knowledge, capacity for engagements and climate change policies and actions. There is a FWG ( Facilitative Working Group) that facilitates the implementation of the LCIPP functions. This FWG consists of parties and IPO representatives.

The International Indigenous Peoples Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) reiterates that Indigenous Peoples hold vast amounts of distinct knowledge and science, which have created their unique economies and cultures of sustainability and resiliency. Climate change impacts are rooted in the legacy and continuation of colonial practices and the myth of “infinite growth”, causing direct losses and damages to our cultures, health, lifeways and overall well-being. Parties are called upon to recognize these incalculable losses that they have experienced and continue to experience, including those arising as a result from response measures, developments and fortress conservation efforts established on their lands and territories that perpetuate these colonial practices.

Indigineous People are not only referencing the physical losses of their lands, waters, territories and resources, but also the cultural losses connected to those lands, waters, and territories that constitute their identity, languages, and their science. Indigenous knowledge systems need to be further recognized and enabled so that people can maintain resilience in the face of situations of, including but not limited to, evacuations, displacements and cultural and economic losses. All loss and damage mechanisms and measures will benefit from endorsing and empowering Indigenous Peoples’ knowledge, innovations and stewardship.

Some of the recommendations for the parties to recognise Indigineous People and Local communities within the meeting are as follows:

- All loss and damage mechanisms and measures, including the loss and damage fund and the Santiago Network, must recognize, respect, promote, and safeguard the rights of Indigenous Peoples as included in the eleventh preambular paragraph of the Paris Agreement, and as reflected in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, in all levels and at all Stages.
- All loss and damage mechanisms and measures must ensure the full and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples in its decision-making processes, and provide equitable, direct, and simplified financial access for Indigenous Peoples
- All loss and damage mechanisms and measures must actively avert and seek to prevent loss and damage, including non-economic loss and damage, associated with the adverse effects of climate change, while also recognizing the unique impacts Indigenous Peoples face in all regions and must include provisions for rapid emergency response mechanisms.

- All loss and damage mechanisms and measures must provide financial assistance to ensure consistent, full and effective participation of IIPFCC representatives in key decision-making processes as it is critical to recognize Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and crucial contributors in climate action, beyond mere textual acknowledgements as observers.

### **Science : Research and systematic observations**

A joint SBSTA-IPCC event to unpack the key findings in the AR6 SYN was organized on June 5. Furthermore, the 15 th Research Dialogue was convened on the June 8, which was thematized as follows:

1. Transformative adaptation;
2. Non-carbon dioxide gasses; and
3. Carbon dioxide removal.

Parties engaged in the informal consultation with the mandate to focus on research at this session. A particular focus of this session is on how to treat the IPCC with the view to propose a draft decision for adoption at the COP28. A number of Parties, including AOSIS, expressed disappointment on no separate agenda for IPCC at the opening informal consultation, contrary to the past practice. However, consensus was reached in the informal consultation to constructively engage to propose a draft decision on IPCC at the COP28. Parties expressed views on the research and IPCC in the informal consultations in week 1 with the co-facilitators availing draft conclusions and decision text upon the mandate given by Parties. Parties have so far engaged in general reflection on the draft conclusions and decision text, but have not engaged in line-by-line approval.

### **Key Issues**

A group of countries, in particular LMDC, want to emphasize the knowledge gaps in the AR6 assessment cycle. However, many want (including AOSIS) to have a balance between the progress in science, including key findings in AR6, and knowledge gaps.

## **Ocean Dialogue - 13-14 June, 2023**

Two themes have been selected for discussion are:

1. Coastal ecosystem restoration including blue carbon
2. Fisheries and food security

Under each of these topics concerns are raised around where financing is lacking and actions that could advance these issues within the Pacific region.

### **1. Coastal ecosystem restoration including blue carbon**

#### **Research and systematic observation**

The Pacific does not have enough critical mass in observing systems; some aspects under-covered like sub-regional ocean acidification; research on compounding impacts of climate change in the oceans is lacking with focus mostly on single impacts such as temperature; socio-economic analysis of the impacts the science predicts on the livelihoods of PSIDS. Improved ocean monitoring is critical to support requested economic and resource outlooks, longer term projections and early warning systems. Climate models are typically biased for the Pacific and enhanced observation (time series, spatial coverage) is needed to correct the bias and validate the assumptions of the physics used. The same is the case for shorter time frame outlooks - particularly in coastal regions and to & ground truth modeled anticipated changes under GHG scenarios. Specifically in relation to oceans acidification there is a need to consider actions such as protecting and restoring kelp and eelgrass —ecosystems with root systems that while they may not be ideal for long-term carbon sequestration — can still improve water quality locally and provide refuge for marine species from acidified and other stressful conditions caused by climate change. In some cases, these habitats have been shown to remediate or buffer against impacts of acidification and deoxygenation in nearshore coastal waters—raising the pH and oxygen levels within the submerged ecosystems and improving the growth and survival of species that are sensitive to ocean acidification. This will require dedicated monitoring and observation at the regional and local levels, to ensure that climate-smart marine protected areas can be established and maintained.

#### **Adaptation**

What aspects of coastal related livelihoods and biodiversity/ecosystems are at risk from climate change, and what opportunities exist to ameliorate those impacts? Correlation of oceans and climate change data with other relevant indicators such as fish catch and stock sizes to better inform management decisions. We have existing modeling of climate impacts on tuna resources, but there is a need to enhance these to provide advice to underpin more targeted planning and adaptation options at the national (rather than regional) level. Understanding of finer-scale impacts on coastal fisheries needs to be improved, along with socio-economic and livelihood knock-on effects. This will then allow countries to better anticipate impacts and devise solutions, which again will require technical and financial resources.

### **Technology**

There is also a need to support technology development and adoption of techniques that fit within the PSIDS context. This needs to take into account the size of islands, their geophysical situation and the biodiversity context of the islands. For example, mangroves are absent from certain parts of the Pacific, but existing indigenous species could be promoted in their place, which may require technical assistance to achieve.

### **Capacity building**

We need to establish continuous capacity building systems. Target audiences are not just climate change officials (to better understand ocean issues) but also sector practitioners (to better understand climate change impacts and mitigation), even at the community level. Consideration should be given to a variety of options such as short courses, on the job training, peer to peer, as well as formal tertiary education. It should be noted that these approaches are being pursued in some recently started SPC FAME climate change projects in the Pacific.

## **2. Fisheries and food security**

Fisheries, meaning fisheries, and aquatic foods and food systems, is at the heart of food security in the Pacific, as around 75% of the world's tuna landings come from Pacific waters while 47% of Pacific households list fishing as either a primary or secondary source of income with national fish consumption in the Pacific islands being three to four times the global average and Pacific ocean-based shipping and tourism provides USD 3.3 billion each year to the national economies of Pacific island countries and territories. These are issues for our economies, our stakeholders such as the private sector and communities, and their livelihoods.

The IPCC has stated with high confidence that ocean warming, ocean acidification and ocean deoxygenation have already affected species biomass, composition and distributions leading to changing food production including shellfish aquaculture and fisheries in some regions. Ocean acidification and deoxygenation threaten biodiversity and adversely impact commercial, recreational, subsistence, and ceremonial shellfish harvest and other seafood species around the world like crab, lobsters, shrimp, clams, mussels, sea urchins, corals, squid and some species of plankton and fish.

We must emphasize the importance of regional risk and vulnerability assessments to help Parties identify the combined impacts of ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation to their resources and along their coastline. In partnership with the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability relevant programmes—establish a framework to outline regional priority gaps in data and information related to seafood security, alongside an inventory of technological and institutional capacity needs for measuring coastal impacts of ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation. This should include improving knowledge of impacts (including biological impacts of keystone seafood fisheries and aquaculture), alongside understanding socio-economic and socio-cultural significance.

In partnership with the Standing Committee on Finance, we should explore links between existing climate finance program funds and ocean monitoring, science and adaptation needs outlined through NDCs, NAPs, and national adaptation projects. These should include program funds that emphasize (1) food security; (2) nature-based solutions; (3) water quality (4) coral reef resilience; or (5) early warning and climate information systems.

We also need to request the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and Global Environment Facility (GEF) to reduce barriers for regional funding applications that advance monitoring, science and research capacity related to responding to ocean warming, acidification, and deoxygenation. These pilots should build upon regional partnerships already in place in the Caribbean, the Pacific and African and Indian Ocean SIDS. They should be designed to enhance capacity for informing and evaluating coastal adaptation projects over the next ten years.

We also need to support further regional action and cooperation. The Pacific is a large region with small and exceedingly diverse countries. Bringing these countries together for collaboration to solve the region's food systems challenges has already been undertaken as the first step. SPC and its partners have been hosting a series of Pacific-wide dialogues that look both to tradition and innovation in cultivating game-changing solutions for more resilient food systems.

The dialogues and related activities have suggested five action tracks in order to step forward:

- ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all,
- shift to sustainable consumption patterns,
- boost nature-positive production,
- advance equitable livelihoods and
- build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress.

Taken together, these five actions will ensure Pacific food systems provide for Pacific peoples and beyond. This will take more than collaborative spirit – resources from both within and outside the region will need to be mobilized, along with applied knowledge that is adaptable to the Pacific context. The United Nations first Food Systems Summit, held in September 2021 was an opportunity to advance the Pacific unique food systems ecosystem while also bringing world food conversations into the region to foster growth and innovation. Indigenous projects based on community and the replanting of lost traditions that provided for people for generations are already sprouting across the region. Supporting these endeavors are a vital key to the vitality of current and future food systems. In addition, through our food systems approach we will be able to show that the region can use indigenous knowledge and culture to address challenges, and to celebrate and acknowledge the great benefits that come from supporting food systems approaches.

## Appendix



Image: L-R Alumita Sekinairai, Mr Kushaal Raj, Director Climate Change, Fiji & Head of Fiji Delegation.



Image: Photo session before the closing plenary for the Bonn meeting.





**Image : Local Knowledge Holders presenting at the FWG discussion for Indigenous People Organisation.**



**Image : Delegations waiting for the closing plenary at the Bonn meeting on the 15th of June, 2023**





**Image : Fiji Delegations briefing after an intersessional session in Bonn. (L-R- Dr Teken Nakidakida, Vitalina Chung, Alumita Sekinairai, Shelveen Kumar)**



**Image : Fiji Delegation at the closing plenary (L-R : Alumita Sekinairai, Jenny, Vitalina Chung)**



**Image : Indigenous Youth at the Bonn Meeting.**