

TOSO FIJI!

Our efforts have been commended by a host of regional and world leaders, plus global climate warriors such as “The Terminator”, Arnold Schwarzenegger, and fellow Hollywood star, Leonardo DiCaprio, who is funding an important renewable energy project in Fiji. But it is the support of ordinary Fijians for our COP Presidency that has inspired us the most.

So vinaka vakalevu Fiji! You have been part of our team leading the way in the struggle to save our way of life and Planet Earth. We hand over the UN negotiations to Poland at COP24 in December proud of our record and even more determined to make the Pacific voice heard as we strive together - with the most vulnerable wherever they live - to overcome the biggest challenge humanity has ever faced.

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Learn more about how Fijians can build our resilience to climate change and reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- Protect our environment by not polluting our ocean and coral reefs so they have a better chance of coping with changing temperatures and acidity.
- Don't rubbish our country. Dispose of your litter properly and try not to use plastic bags, plastic bottles or single use plastic products, that can make their way into the ocean through our drains, creeks and rivers.
- Try to save energy. Turn off the lights and the TV when you leave a room. Walk or ride a bicycle rather than take a bus or car. Or share a ride with friends rather than travel alone.
- Plant more trees. When you need to chop down a tree, replace it with at least two more because trees remove carbon from the atmosphere.
- Try to limit the lighting of fires and especially large scale burning.
- Limit the use of air conditioning and opt for fans or open windows.
- Plan meals and reduce food wastage, which will reduce the amount of rubbish disposed in landfills.
- Restore and protect our mangroves.
- Spread the word. Talk about climate change with your family and friends, join groups tackling the climate challenge and get your community to take action.



For more information: fijiclimatchangeportal.gov.fj

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COP23: A FIJIAN SUCCESS STORY

Fiji celebrates a year of solid achievement as the first Small Island Developing State to lead the international community in the fight against climate change. All Fijians can be proud of our presidency of the UN climate negotiations by the COP23 team led by Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama.

We have delivered on our promise to bring the “Bula Spirit” and Pacific determination to the climate struggle. We have introduced the Pacific concept of talanoa in the search for solutions to speed up the response to climate change. We have helped make the world realise that the effort to save our oceans and the climate struggle are interlinked and cannot be separated. We have kick-started a range of initiatives to scale up access to climate finance for vulnerable nations, in particular to pay for climate adaptation, insure themselves against damage and bring clean energy to more Fijian households.



As the impact of climate change grows, we also have our eyes set firmly on the future and what we need to do as a nation and as Pacific Islanders to meet the growing threat to our way of life.





OUR RECORD IN A NUTSHELL

We have:

- fulfilled our obligation to maintain the momentum of the global negotiations, including youth, women, local communities and indigenous peoples engaging with national governments as never before.
- helped build a Grand Coalition of states and regions, communities, investors and ordinary citizens focused on working better together to meet the climate threat.
- sent a clear message to the world about the urgent need to cap global warming at the most ambitious target of the Paris Agreement – 1.5 degrees Celsius above the pre-industrial age – to avoid destroying life as we know it in the Pacific and for many others.
- highlighted that current global efforts are not enough to stop the planet from warming even more and led the way, with the Marshall Islands, in becoming the first two nations to commit to raising our “Nationally Determined Contributions” (NDCs) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.
- promoted the cause of the most climate-vulnerable nations, especially those in the Pacific, helped share their stories and focused on financial measures to assist them to meet the climate threat.
- developed new, inclusive and innovative ways to speed up the response to climate change – from listing Fiji’s Green Bond – third in the world and first of a developing nation – on the London Stock Exchange; to the Fijian Rural Electrification Fund, supported by the Leonardo DiCaprio Foundation, to bring clean power to more Fijians.
- championed the efforts of those taking action now and challenged other nations to follow our bold lead before the Paris Agreement begins in 2020, working with coalitions engaging more than a billion people worldwide.

THE WORLD TALANOAS FOR CHANGE

Fiji has brought the Pacific concept of talanoa – of respectful and inclusive decision-making – to the world of diplomacy to raise ambition in the climate struggle. Our Talanoa Dialogue initiative has captured the imagination of the world and brought a refreshing, potentially enduring, approach to discussions in the UN system. Talanoas are being held in many countries and are helping to shift the climate debate from confrontation and disagreement to constructive efforts to build consensus and find common ground. These sessions share stories and showcase best practices to urgently raise the level of ambition in our NDCs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



Even when Fiji hands over the COP presidency to Poland, we will continue to be centre stage as co-chair, with Poland, of a talanoa between climate change ministers at COP24.

SAVING THE OCEANS THAT SUSTAIN US

We launched the Ocean Pathway Partnership to better integrate the climate struggle with the struggle to preserve the health of our oceans so that we can continue to rely on them for food and our livelihoods. This partnership – co-chaired by Fiji and Sweden – is accelerating action on ocean health and bringing it to the core of the climate negotiations. This is of immense importance to Fiji, other Pacific nations and maritime communities around the world.

