

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

TARGETS	INDICATORS
<p>15.1 By 2020, ensure the conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains, and drylands, in line with obligations under international agreements</p>	<p>15.1.1 Forest area as a proportion of total land area 15.1.2 Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type</p>
<p>15.2 By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally</p>	<p>15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management</p>
<p>15.3 By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought, and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world</p>	<p>15.3.1 Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area</p>
<p>15.4 By 2030, ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, in order to enhance their capacity to provide benefits that are essential for sustainable development</p>	<p>15.4.1 Coverage by protected areas of important sites for mountain biodiversity 15.4.2 Mountain Green Cover Index</p>
<p>15.5 Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species</p>	<p>15.5.1 Red List Index</p>
<p>15.6 Promote fair and equitable sharing of the benefits arising from the utilization of genetic resources and promote appropriate access to such resources, as internationally agreed</p>	<p>15.6.1 Number of countries that have adopted legislative, administrative and policy frameworks to ensure fair and equitable sharing of benefits</p>
<p>15.7 Take urgent action to end poaching and trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna and address both demand and supply of illegal wildlife products</p>	<p>15.7.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked</p>

15.8 By 2020, introduce measures to prevent the introduction and significantly reduce the impact of invasive alien species on land and water ecosystems and control or eradicate the priority species	15.8.1 Proportion of countries adopting relevant national legislation and adequately resourcing the prevention or control of invasive alien species
15.9 By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts	15.9.1 Progress towards national targets established in accordance with Aichi Biodiversity Target 2 of the Strategic Plan for Biodiversity 2011-2020
15.A Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems	15.A.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems
15.B Mobilize significant resources from all sources and at all levels to finance sustainable forest management and provide adequate incentives to developing countries to advance such management, including for conservation and reforestation	15.B.1 Official development assistance and public expenditure on conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity and ecosystems
15.C Enhance global support for efforts to combat poaching and trafficking of protected species, including by increasing the capacity of local communities to pursue sustainable livelihood opportunities	15.C.1 Proportion of traded wildlife that was poached or illicitly trafficked

Section 1.1- Inclusive Socio-economic Development

Protecting Culture, Heritage and Natural Environment

Fiji has a rich cultural diversity and heritage that will be protected and promoted. Our language, food, festivals, rituals, arts, and traditions, which hold essential intrinsic value, will be preserved. Local culture and heritage will be promoted as part of our vibrant tourism industry. Intellectual property rights for protection of traditional knowledge will be developed and strengthened. There will be an increased focus on proper management of our forests, mangroves, and coral reefs because of the complex natural biodiversity that these systems support. These natural systems are critical for food and nutrition security, sustaining endemic flora and fauna, and maintaining the natural balance in nature. Our pristine natural environment will be protected, and the economy will be made more climate resilient.

National Development Targets relevant to SDG 15

Environment Targets	2015	2021	2036
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Forest area under long term conservation (%)	3	5	16
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Fijian Environmental Law Association (FELA)

The primary purpose of the Fiji Environmental Law Association (FELA) is to promote the sustainable management of natural resources through law.

Programme Goals are achieved through policy and law reform, Community education, legal and scientific education, and development of members.

Source and Further reading: The Strategic Plan for 2015 to 2020 for the FELA

<https://nebula.wsimg.com/caee7f2a4e78558c96af5fdec4c8ad94?AccessKeyId=536E0831567821C953C4&disposition=0&alloworigin=1>

FNDP SECTION SUMMARY

3.2.14 FORESTRY

“Sustainable management and development of forestry resources”

- The excellent quality of the country’s timber and wood products is well-known in international markets, and Fiji is also known to have the world’s largest non-native mahogany stock in the world.
- Increased effort will be placed on plantation development. The Government has been the key player in forest-plantation management, with the private sector involved in harvesting and timber processing. Private sector involvement will be further increased, and A National Plantation Policy will be introduced to provide guidelines for setting up private sector plantations. A Fire Management Strategic Plan will also address the risk of forest fires.
- The Government will support reforestation of native and exotic forests, and Fiji’s forest area, that are protected under long-term conservation initiatives. More areas will be identified under the Fiji REDD+35 programme to protect our forests and at the same time generate financial benefits under carbon-trading mechanisms.
- A new framework has been adopted for the harvesting of native forests. Framework guidelines set specific diameter limits by wood species, frequency of wood species logged and the standing volume of a forest.
- Local micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) such as wood carvers and traditional handicraft artisans will be supported to develop small-to-medium cottage industries through the timber utilisation and research division within the Ministry of Forests.
- Fiji also has potential for growth in wood bioenergy. Private sector partnerships will continue to be supported in this area.

Further Information

Fiji REDD programme- Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation

‘REDD’ in the context of the Fiji National REDD Strategy refers to REDD-Plus, encompassing Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation’; and afforestation/reforestation; and any activity capable of addressing the drivers of deforestation and degradation, or amplifying the drivers of afforestation/reforestation.

While it is clear that sustainable management of forests is an integral component of climate change adaptation in Fiji, there are important strategic synergies between climate change adaptation and mitigation that can be used to maximize the financing opportunities for building and maintaining resilient forested landscapes capable of providing many ecosystem services to the people of Fiji.

Fiji has identified 3 phases for the Fiji REDD programme:

Phase 1: Policy and scoping – output “National REDD Policy” (final draft submitted June 2010)

Phase 2: Detailed planning – output “National REDD Strategy” (2010 – 2011)

Phase 3: Implementation – output “National REDD strategy outcomes and monitoring” (2011 -Onwards)

Source: <https://ird.spc.int/climate-change-mitigation/redd>

SDG 15 in Figures

Fiji: Forest Cover, 2010

Total Land Area 1,827,000 Hectares

Total Forest Area 1,014,000 Hectares

Percent Forest Cover 56%

FOREST COVER between 1990 and 2010 (excluding planted forests) (Hectares) *Difference between forest cover in years is the amount of Deforestation.

Year	1990	2000	2005	2010
Cover	861,000	850,000	844,000	837,000

Source: <https://rainforests.mongabay.com/deforestation/2000/Fiji.htm>

SDG 2019 REVIEW

SDG 15: LIFE ON LAND

Protect, restore, and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Fiji is a signatory to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity (UNCBD) and the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD) and is required address the modern-day challenges faced in conserving terrestrial ecosystems.

Forestry and Land Use

- Fiji’s forest coverage has been increasing in recent decades. In 2015, the total estimated hectares of forest were 1.1 million, covering 55 per cent of Fiji’s total land area. This represents a 3.5 per cent increase since 1990.
- Based on the trends between 1991 and 2010, the Global Forest Assessment Report (FRA) 2015 reported a 7,500-ha decrease in the area of closed forests, while an increase in 13,790

ha of open forests. The report forecasted that by 2015 the area of closed forests would increase to 524,476 ha compared to 483,634 ha of open forest area.

- Fiji has committed to the World Bank's Emissions Reduction Programme (ERP). The ERP builds on the implementation of the long-term decarbonisation strategy outlined in the Fiji Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS)
- Fiji's "4 million trees in 4 years" initiative complements the afforestation goals under the ERP. This initiative particularly aligns to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and supports the New York Declaration on Forests which aims to end natural forest loss by 2030

Biodiversity

- According to the Protected Planet Report 2018, Fiji currently has 146 protected areas (both territorial and marine), up from 142 in 2014
- The total terrestrial land protected has increased by 549 km² since 2007 and 189 km² since 2014. The national goal under Fiji's 2017- 2024 National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) is to achieve 17 percent of total protected terrestrial land.
- The baseline assessment on SDG's in Fiji revealed that of the 2,543 known plants species in Fiji, 281 plant species are endangered. Of the 68 bird species, 17 are endangered and of the 1,198 known marine fish species in Fiji, 49 species are endangered including both the species of amphibians in Fiji.
- Climate change and sudden-onset events such as severe Tropical Cyclone Winston exacerbates biodiversity and the natural environment loss 13. Fiji's loss of biodiversity has thus been far more serious than the reported global average of 0.74 and the Pacific average of 0.79 in 2016.

The development of the National Land Use Plan will inform the process of rural land and resources allocation and development. This move is of critical importance to ensure rationalised infrastructure development that considers the impacts on all land-based resources such as forest, agriculture, minerals, rivers, and streams.

Education and awareness are the key means by which behavioural changes take root in society. It has also been observed that legal protections have proven successful in incentivising responsible behaviour. In this regard, the government's decision to implement the Plastic Levy and the ban of single-use plastics by 2020 are commendable steps towards biodiversity preservation.

The 2014 Green Growth Framework and the NDP for Fiji further highlight the necessity of determining the value of carbon credits from forests, through relevant data, surveys, and information. The finalisation of the Market Mechanisms under the Paris Agreement will allow countries with high forest cover, such as Fiji, to engage in forest carbon trading.