

# The University of Fiji

# WORLD WIDE VIEWS ON CLIMATE AND ENERGY (FIJI)

# Report

The University of Fiji, Saweni, Lautoka Fiji, 6<sup>th</sup> June 2015



# Prepared by:

Priyatma Singh¹
Ramendra Prasad¹
Aman Deo¹
Dhrishna Charan¹
Andreen Kiran¹
Sanjay Singh¹
Priit Kilgas¹
ABM Shawkat Ali²

<sup>1</sup>Department of Science/CCCEESD School of Science and Technology The University of Fiji Private Mail Bag Saweni, Lautoka Fiji Islands

<sup>2</sup> Department of Computer Science and Information Technology School of Science and Technology The University of Fiji Private Mail Bag Saweni, Lautoka Fiji Islands



# **Correspondence:**

Priyatma Singh

Email: <a href="mailto:PriyatmaS@unifiji.ac.fj">PriyatmaS@unifiji.ac.fj</a></a>
Ph: (+679) 6640 600 (ext 189)

Mob: (+679) 9242381

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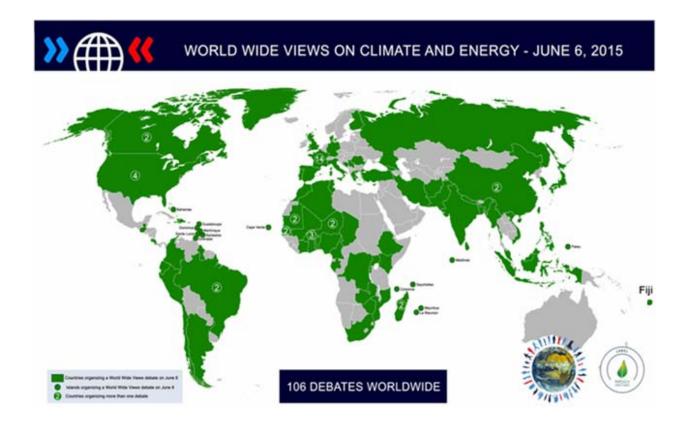












The highlighted green areas categorize countries that organized WWViews debate on June  $6^{th}$ . The spherical green zones indicate islands that organized WWViews debate on June  $6^{th}$  and the spherical with the numbers designates countries that organized more than one WWViews debate on June  $6^{th}$ .

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# **Acronyms**

**CCCEESD** Centre for Climate Change, Energy, Environment and Sustainable

Development

**COP21** Conference of Parties

**CNDP** Commission Nationale du Débat Public

**DBT** Danish Board of Technology

**GHG** Green House Gases

NGO Non-Government Organization

**UN** United Nations

**UNFCCC** United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

**UniFiji** The University of Fiji

**WWViews** World Wide Views

# 1.0 Introduction

# **Background**

Climate change is now widely recognized as the major environmental problem facing the globe. Small island developing countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change and are bound to face increasing threats to sustainable development from the impacts of climate change in near future. Many islands are already experiencing climate change impacts on communities, infrastructure, water supply, coastal and forest ecosystems, fisheries, agriculture, and human health. There is growing evidence to support that the global temperature is increasing and the climate is changing in response to rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions in the atmosphere [3, 4]. A third of global habitats are at risk, and extreme events such as floods, storms and drought are becoming more frequent. At the hub of the issue of climate change is an energy system based on fossil fuels that is mainly responsible for greenhouse gas emissions [5]. On the other hand, renewable energy offers one of the foremost resolutions to the climate change. By providing 'carbon-neutral' sources of power, heat, cooling and transport fuels, renewable energy options such as wind, solar, biomass, hydropower, wave and tidal power provide a safe transition to a low carbon economy [6].

Community outreach programs, awareness and understanding of the potential impacts on livelihoods are vital for climate change adaptation. The various strategies to combat climate change must be well understood by general public, scientists, policy makers, and decision makers. It is also important to strengthen developing Pacific islands countries in their capability to engage in climate change negotiations, have access to international funding sources, and meet their international responsibilities under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The regulation of technologies and environmental issues is increasingly coordinated through international negotiations. Experts, industries, government representatives, and NGOs have found ways to influence and interact with such negotiations; however, lay citizens have practically no role in these processes. WWViews is a continuation of the on-going efforts of Danish Board of Technology (DBT) and partners in the WWViews Alliance to promote and develop methods for involving citizens in political decision-making processes [1].

WWViews on Climate and Energy is an ambitious, global citizen participation project on global climate and energy policies and actions. The project was initiated by the Secretariat to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the French National Commission for Public Debate, the Danish Board of Technology Foundation, and Missions Publiques, with the support of the French Government, Conference of the Parties (COP21) host. World Wide Views on Climate and Energy provides unique opportunity for the lay citizens of a country to voice their opinions on climate and energy issues [1].

Citizens are selected to reflect the demographic diversity in a country, and they receive information about pros, cons and views on different climate and energy policies, targets and

measures (both in advance and on the day of the consultations). All meetings follow the same agenda and guidelines in order to make the results comparable. Citizens express their views on an identical set of questions, designed to reflect policy controversies at the COP negotiations and political discussions about climate and energy in general [1]. The results are published instantaneously via a web-tool, allowing for easy exploration and comparisons of results; one country with another or developed countries with developing ones.

# **Project Objectives**

Climate change and energy transition at any level requires public support. WWViews on Climate and Energy provides policymakers with thorough knowledge of the level of this support and also shows a reliable picture of public opinions on some of the more complex issues that policymakers need to address.

As per the Manual for WWViews on Climate and Energy [1], the citizen consultation acted as a means of providing a platform for discussion with the following key objectives:

# <u>Immediate outcomes of the project:</u>

- Citizen meetings about Climate and Energy all over the world;
- A policy report about the results;
- Presentation of the national results to national policy-makers;
- Presentation of the global results at COP21 and COP pre-meetings.

## Long term Outcomes:

- Demonstrating and establishing public participation in nations around the world;
- Engaged and empowered citizens in the public debate;
- Capacity building nationally, as well as internationally, for organizing public participation in complex policy issues;
- Establishment of best practice for Citizen Participation at UN level;
- A solid baseline for future policy initiatives;
- Contribute to Article 6 of UNFCCC in raising awareness for Climate change;
- Increased legitimacy of global governance system and processes.

# 2.0 Methodology

# Study design

The WWViews method combines national face-to-face citizen consultations with a web-based transnational comparison of the national results. Similar design has previously been used to conduct WWViews on Biodiversity in 2012 [7]. Citizens at all national citizen consultations received the same information (before and during the citizen consultation), were subject to the same facilitated process and answered the same questions. The method delivered a transnational overview of how citizens in the involved countries answered a set of pre-defined questions [1]. An internet service provided transparency with regards to partners, information material, process and the full set of result data.

# Selecting the participating citizens

A hybrid method which embraced two different recruitment processes was used for enrolment of Fijian citizens. It incorporated snowball sampling together with newspaper advertisement to ensure a diverse and representative group of participants. In snowball sampling system, 15 people belonging to different ethnicity, age category and regions, were invited and asked to disperse enrolment forms to about two to five people they knew, who would have then done the same. In this way the sample group appears to grow like a rolling snowball. The citizens, however, were reminded to invite citizens with different backgrounds/characteristics than themselves. Snowball sampling was an effective way to reach out to people who did not have access to newspapers. Recruitment plan was filled and submitted to the WWViews organizers for their approval.

Interested citizens were required to fill in the enrollment form and submit to the WWViews organizing committee in CCCEESD at the University of Fiji. The recruitment process occurred over a period of three weeks in May. The University of Fiji project team was managing recruitment in the western Viti Levu, Vanua Levu and smaller islands while the collaborating partners, Project Survival Pacific, were overseeing enrolment in the central Viti Levu.

A total of 218 completed forms were received and entered into the database. Based on the criteria of age, geographical zone, education level, occupation, gender and ethnicity, 150 citizens were selected to participate in the consultation process on June 6<sup>th</sup> 2015 [1].

The final list of participants reflected citizens from all parts of the two major islands, Viti Levu and Vanua Levu, where 95% of the population resides. The urban and rural population of Fiji was well represented. The remaining 5% of the sample was from the very small islands [2].

#### Thematic Sessions and Information Materials

All citizens were given a printed copy of WWViews information booklet [8] two weeks prior to the event. The booklet was also provided to them on the day of the event. The questions for citizen consultation were given to participants on 6<sup>th</sup> of June after a presentation in the form of 5 min videos. There were five thematic sessions that were covered:

# **Session 1: Importance of tackling climate change**

It was an introduction to climate change, its consequences and the need to shift to a low carbon economy. This theme covered the present situation and how people assess actions on climate change.

# Session 2: Tools to tackle climate change

This session was about tools to tackle climate change. This theme focused on different tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and the directions for exploration of new fossil fuel reserves.

# **Session 3: UN negotiations and national commitments**

In this thematic session, the citizens were informed of the role of the United Nations, and of the climate negotiations. This theme contained issues regarding whether the national climate contributions should be mandatory and whether commitments of adaptation and mitigation should be national or respond to a global responsibility.

# Session 4: Fairness and distribution of efforts

It presented the citizens with an opportunity to highlight ways in which their country can meaningfully contribute to reducing global warming. This theme incorporated the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities among different countries.

# Session 5: Making and keeping climate promises

The final global session was about ensuring that countries keep their promises and encouraged them to give in their opinions to resolving climate change and making a difference. This theme covered the challenges of transparency, reporting of progress, preparing and implementing plans and actions.

## **Session 6: Evaluation Questions**

The participants were presented with the evaluation questions about the organization of the WWViews consultation.

# **Session 7: National Session**

In the national session, the participants discussed local issues and each group formulated their own remarks in the form of a recommendation to local government.

Sessions 1 to 5 had a number of questions for the citizens to debate (see Results and Discussion). In session 6 they gave their own views, while session 7 had informal discussions.

# **Programme Structure for 6th of June 2015**

The language used for communication in Fiji is English, therefore reading materials were released in English. The consultation process was also conducted in English; however, facilitators provided assistance during discussions. The facilitators did not have any Climate and Energy qualification and were not experts, but were knowledgeable enough to explain the material. Facilitators comprised of Fijian, Fiji-Hindi, Rotuman and English speaking people.

The citizen consultation on June 6<sup>th</sup> was conducted in five global thematic sessions followed by a short national session (see above). Participating citizens were divided into groups of five or six people and each group was allocated a table each. Each group comprised a mosaic of people from various backgrounds. In the first five sessions, all participants were shown 5 min videos, after which they had discussions among the group for 45 minutes. The discussions were facilitated by facilitators when required. Facilitators were not allowed to provide any additional information outside the material presented to the participants. After group discussions, each participant answered a set of questions (see Results and Discussion). Discussions with other participants were not allowed during answering of the questions. During the day, the Fiji citizens were also able to have Skype session with Japan who too hosted similar WWViews on Climate and Energy.

## The web tool

After each session results were collated and data entry shared immediately through online medium with the rest of the world (<a href="http://climateandenergy.wwviews.org/results/">http://climateandenergy.wwviews.org/results/</a>).

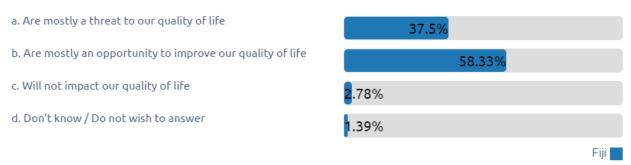
# 3.0 Results and Discussion

# 1<sup>st</sup> Thematic Session; Importance of tackling climate change

# 1. How concerned are you about the impacts of climate change? a. Very concerned b. Moderately concerned c. Not concerned d. Don't know / Do not wish to answer 0.69%

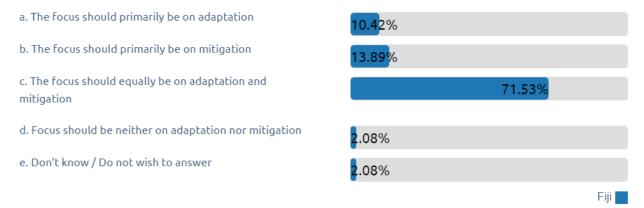
People in Fiji were very concerned about the impacts of climate change. Staggering 93% responded that they are very concerned. It is likely that due to its island location, people in Fiji have had more exposure to the effects of climate change.

# 2. For you, measures to fight climate change:



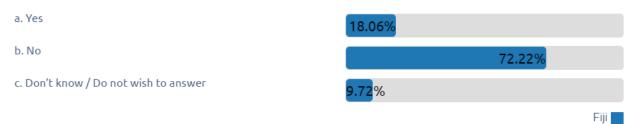
A divided response was received for the question that asked what measures to fight climate change mean to you. 58% answered that such measures are mostly an opportunity to improve the quality of our life, while 38% said that these are mostly a threat to our quality of life. Only less than 3% answered that such measures will not impact our quality of life.

# 3. What do you think should be the focus of global efforts in the coming decades?



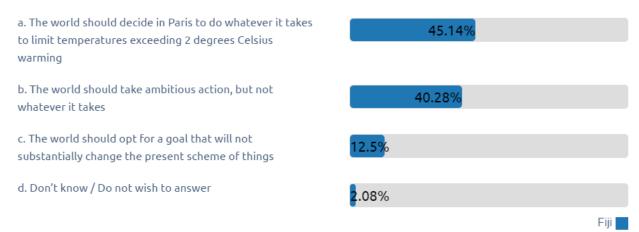
71.5% of citizens voted that the focus of global efforts in the coming decades should equally be adaptation and mitigation. 13.9% said that the focus should be mitigation, and 10.4% said that it should primarily be adaptation. It is possible that some people were confused about the exact meaning of these two terms.

# 4. In your opinion, have the outcomes of the UN climate negotiations since 1992 done enough to tackle climate change?



Majority of people (72.2%) felt that the UN climate negotiations since 1992 have not done enough to tackle climate change. This is most likely due to the fact that although UN has initiated several programs, the commitment of countries to these programs is falling short. However, 18% of people felt that the outcomes of the UN climate negotiations have done enough.

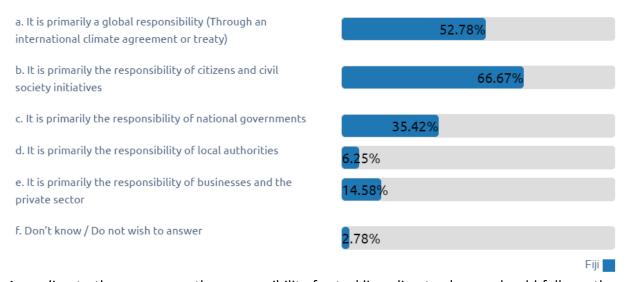
# 5. How urgently should the world react to tackle climate change?



On world's reaction to tackle climate change, 45% supported extreme urgency to do whatever it takes to limit temperatures exceeding 2 degrees Celsius warming; these are most likely the participants who understand what more than 2 degree change can cause. 40% showed support to take ambitious actions, but not with extreme measures. 12.5% thought that we should not change the current trends, probably because climate change is not affecting their lives or they are not informed enough about its effects.

## 6. In your opinion, who should primarily be responsible for tackling climate change?

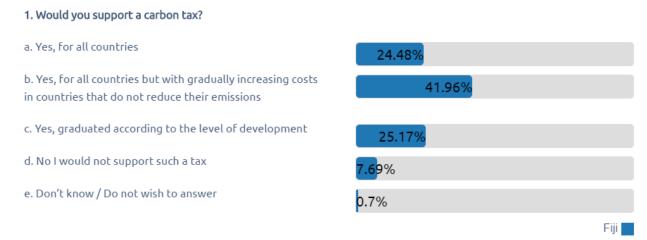
Note that the total amount of all answers can be higher than 100%, since participants could choose two answer option for this question.



According to the responses, the responsibility for tackling climate change should fall mostly on the citizens and civil societies (67%), through global responsibilities and international agreements (53%) and through the actions of national governments (35%). 14.6% felt that it should be primarily the responsibility of business and private sector.

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Thematic Session; Tools to tackle climate change

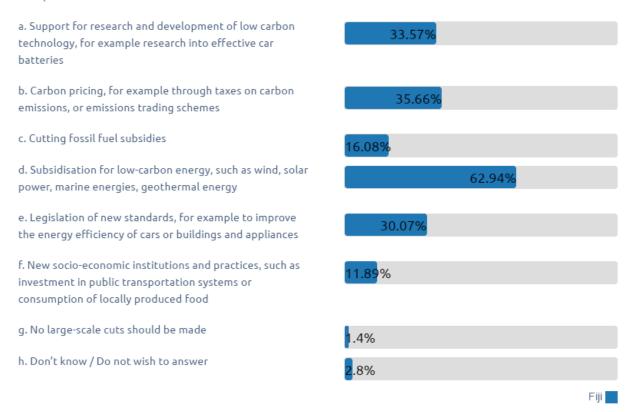
This theme addresses different tools to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.



The question addresses the support carbon taxing had among the voters. Majority of the voters, (91%) approved the imposing of carbon tax, with around 42% of the voters siding with the option of imposing carbon tax on all countries with gradually increasing costs in countries that fail to reduce their carbon emissions. From the remaining, 25% agreed with carbon tax with the condition that its application be moderated by the level of development of a country, while 25% supported carbon taxing for all countries without any such conditions. Small percentage (7.7%) of people were against the idea of a carbon tax.

# 2. Which of the following approaches do you prefer for making large-scale cuts in greenhouse gas emissions?

Note that the total amount of all answers can be higher than 100%, since participants could choose two answer option for this question.



The options for approaches that could be undertaken to bring about large-scale cuts in greenhouse emissions received varied responses across the board of voters, whereby each voter had an opportunity to choose two options from the ones listed. Around 62.9 % of the voters supported the idea of subsidizing low-carbon energy technologies. Three approaches had fairly similar percentages of voters' support, with 33.7 % of the voters supporting research and development of low-carbon technology, 35.7% recommending using carbon pricing as a technique, and 30% choosing legislation of new standards as means to improving energy efficiency. Cutting fossil fuel subsidies were seen as an efficient approach by 16% of the voters while a slightly lesser percentage of 11.9 % chose the establishment of new socio-economic institutions and practices. A very small percentage, 1.4% suggested that no large-scale cuts needed to be made.

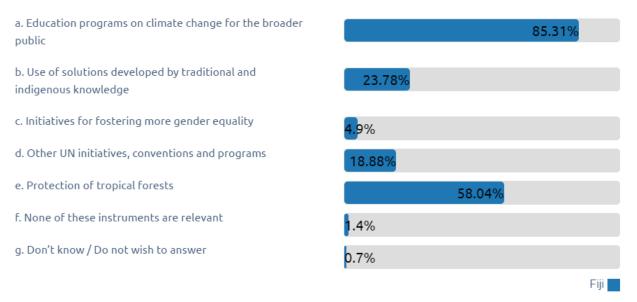
#### 3. In order to deal with climate change what do you think will be most effective?



The voters were asked to choose the level of implementation that would be most effective towards dealing with climate change. Majority of the voters (58.7%) supported the implementation of solutions towards climate change at a global scale. Around a quarter of the voters (25.2%) wanted solutions to be implemented at a local/subnational level, while around 14 % opted for solutions to be applied at national level.

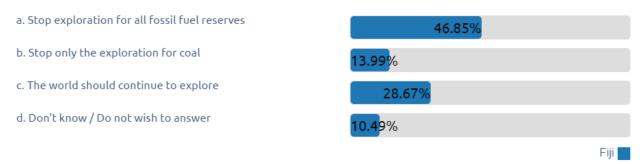
## 4. Which of the following instruments do you find relevant in relation to reducing the level of greenhouse gas emission

Note that the total amount of all answers can be higher than 100%, since participants could choose two answer option for this question.



When provided with a list of instruments relevant to the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, a staggering 85.3% of the citizens consulted recognized educational programs on climate change for a broader public as the most relevant instrument. This was followed by the option of protecting tropical forests, to which 58% gave their consent. The option of using traditional and indigenous knowledge to look for climate change solutions won the vote of 23.7% of the citizens, which was closely followed by the selection of using UN initiatives, convections and programs by 18.9%. 4.9% of the voters approved using initiatives that fostered gender equality as one of the most relevant instrument for greenhouse gas emission reduction. 1.4% found none of the instruments mentioned relevant.

5. How should the world deal with exploration for new fossil fuel reserves?



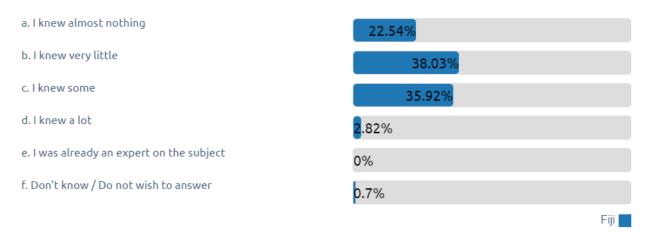
The voters were asked to look into the next steps which could be undertaken in the field of new fossil fuel reserve explorations. Majority (46.8%), opted for the exploration of fossil fuel reserves to stop entirely, while 14% supported the idea of having only the exploration for coal to discontinue, 28.7% believed that the exploration should continue.

# 3rd Thematic Session;

# **UN negotiations and national commitments**

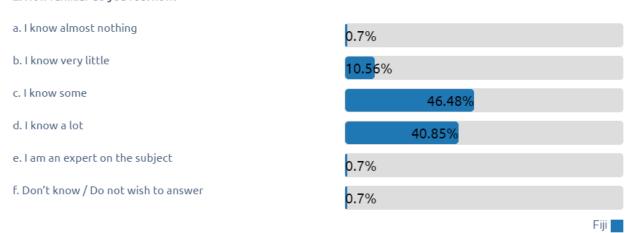
This theme contains issues regarding whether the national climate contributions should be mandatory and whether commitments of adaptation and mitigation should be national or respond to a global responsibility.

1. To what extend did you feel familiar with the process of making an international climate agreement, before joining World Wide Views?



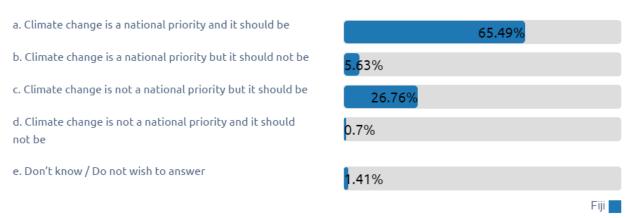
Before joining WWViews, people in Fiji were not familiar with the processes of how international climate change agreements are made. Only a handful – 3% knew a lot, 36% knew some, 38% know very little, and 23% said that they knew almost nothing.

# 2. How familiar do you feel now?



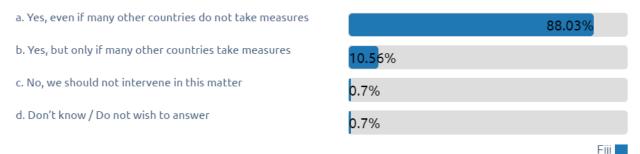
After the WWViews consultations, majority of participants came to know about processes – 41% knew a lot, and 47% knew some accounting for 88% who learnt about processes involving international climate change agreements. 10.5% said that they still know very little.

# 3. How do you feel that your country is dealing with climate change?



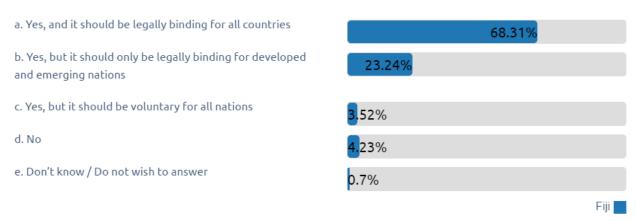
Fiji is very vulnerable to climate change and this topic has always been a national priority. The citizens' responses also reflected this as 65% said that climate change is a national priority and it should be. 27% of the participants stated that climate change is not a national priority but it should be, indicating that they are probably not well informed. Clearly, more community awareness on national priorities is needed. Interestingly, 6% of the participants said that climate change is a national priority, but it should not be.

# 4. Should your country take measure to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions?



A large number of participants (88%) agreed that Fiji should take measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions regardless of other countries not taking any measures. This shows that our citizens are really concerned about climate change and think it is everyone's business. 11% want Fiji to only reduce greenhouse gas emissions if other countries also take measures.

# 5. Should a Paris agreement include a global long-term goal for zero emissions at the end of this century?

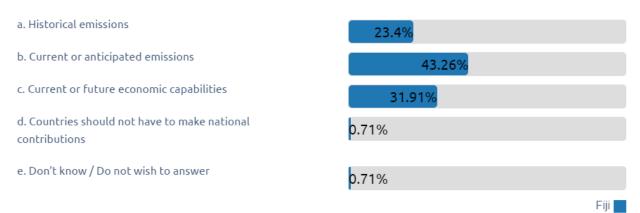


A vast majority - 95% of participants, agreed that a Paris agreement should include a global long-term goal for zero emission at the end of this century. Out of this, 68% stated that it should be legally binding for all countries, 23% want it to be legally binding for developed and emerging nations, while 3.5% said it should be voluntary for all nations. The responses show that the citizens in Fiji realize that issues related to climate change have to be addressed by everyone.

# 4<sup>th</sup> Thematic Session; Fairness and distribution of efforts

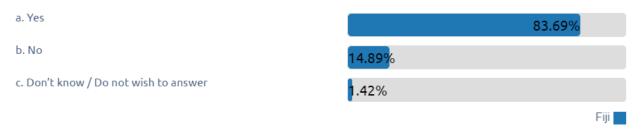
This theme addresses the common but differentiated responsibilities and respective capabilities among different countries.

1. What would be the best basis for setting the ambition of national climate contributions?



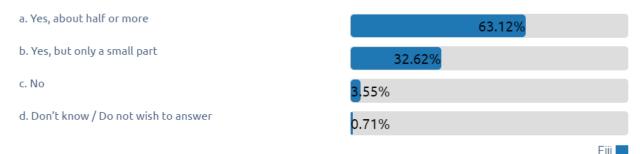
When asked, what would be the best basis for setting the ambition of national climate contributions, three themes emerged. Majority of participants (43.3%) felt that current or anticipated capabilities, 31.9% of participants thought that current or future economic capacities and 23.4% felt that historical emissions should be the basis for such decisions.

2. After 2020, should high-income countries pay more than already agreed on for mitigation and adaptation in low-income countries (\$100 billion in 2020)?



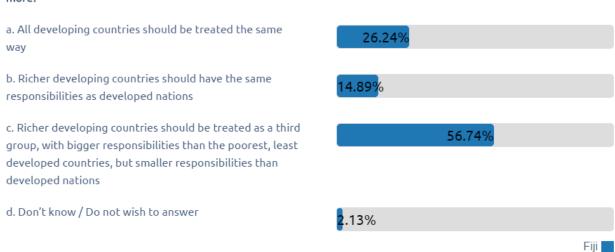
Not surprisingly for a developing country, overwhelming majority of participants (83.7%) thought that high-income countries should pay more than already agreed on for mitigation and adaptation in low income countries after 2020.

3. Should private sector contributions count as part of the offers to climate finance from developed countries?



Overall majority felt that private sector contributions should count as part of the offers to climate change finance from developed countries, with 63.1% of respondents answering that about half or more should count, and 32.6% feeling that only small part should count.

4. Should all developing countries be treated as one group, as presently, or should richer developing countries have to do more?



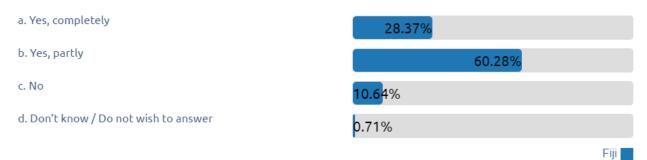
Majority of the respondents (56.7%) felt that richer developing countries should be treated as a third group, with bigger responsibilities than the poorest least developed countries, but with smaller responsibilities than developed nations. 26.2% felt that all developing countries should be treated the same. 14.9% felt that richer developing countries should have the same responsibilities as developed nations.

#### 5. Should only high-income countries contribute to the Green Climate Fund?



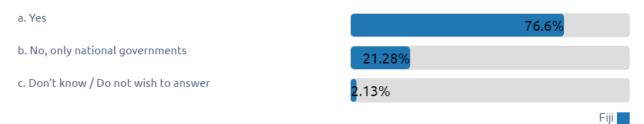
Most people (66.7%) felt that richer developing countries should also contribute to the Green Climate Fund, whereas 32.6% of the respondents felt that only high-income countries should contribute.

# 6. Should the efforts of developing countries depend on funding from developed countries?



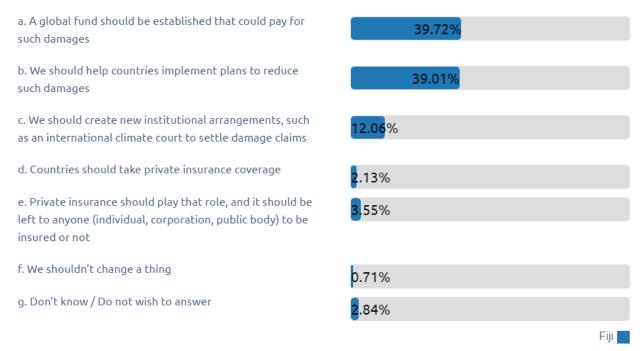
Majority of people thought that the efforts of developing countries should depend on funding from developed countries. 60.2% felt that they should partly depend, and 28.4% felt that the efforts should fully depend on funding from developed countries.

# 7. Should local authorities, including cities, have access to funding from the Green Climate Fund?



Overwhelming majority of Fijian people (76.6%) feel that local authorities, including cities, should have access to funding from the Green Climate fund.

8. Which of the following options should a Paris agreement include to address loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change?

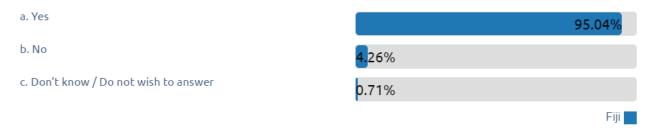


People in Fiji are in the view that Paris agreement should also include the options to address the loss and damage associated with the impacts of climate change. Almost equally were proposed that a global fund should be established that could pay for such damages (39.7%) and we should help countries implement plans to reduce such damages (39%).

# 5<sup>th</sup> Thematic Session; Making and keeping climate promises

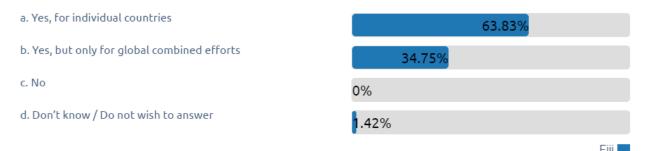
This theme addresses the challenge of transparency, reporting of progress and preparing, and implementing plans and actions.

1. Do you agree that countries should agree in Paris to update their climate action commitments every 5 years?



An inspiring 95% of the citizens in Fiji agree that countries should agree in Paris to update their climate action commitment every 5 years.

# 2. Should a UN level body have the authority to make reviews that assess the sufficiency and fairness of countries climate action?



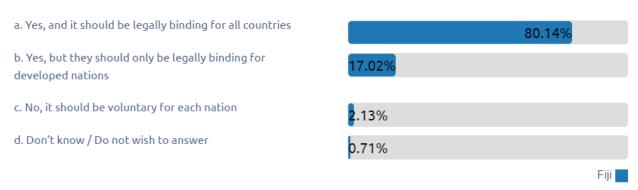
Interestingly, 99% of the participants said that a UN level body should have the authority to make reviews that assess the sufficiency and fairness of countries' climate action. Out of this, 64% want this for individual countries while 35% want it for global combined efforts only. The overall view in Fiji seems to be to have a UN level body to review the climate actions.

# 3. Do you think that countries should have the right to inspect each other's reporting of mitigation and adaptation efforts?



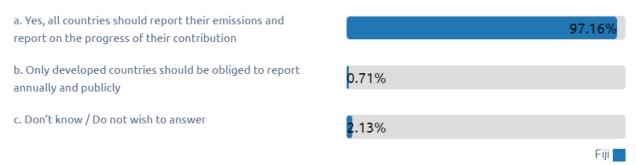
The participants in Fiji are very concerned about transparency as 96% of the citizens think that countries should have the right to inspect each other's reporting of mitigation and adaptation efforts. 53% of the citizens think that any country should have the right to inspect others and 43% think that only donor countries should be allowed to inspect receiving countries. 4% think that reporting should be voluntary for all nations.

#### 4. Should a Paris agreement include national short-term goals?



A staggering 97% of the participants would like to have the Paris agreement include the national short-term goals. For 80%, this agreement should be legally binding for all countries and for the other 17%, this agreement should only be legally binding for developed countries. Only 2% think that it should be voluntary for each nation.

5. Should countries publish an annual report on their emissions, and report on progress towards meeting their pledge for climate action?

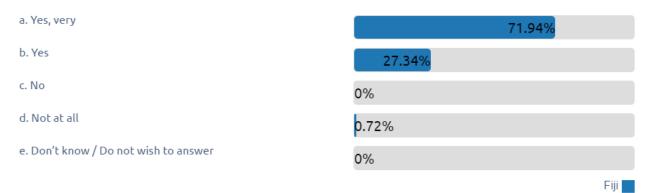


Again, 97% of the Fijian citizens want all countries to publish an annual report on their emissions and report on progress towards meeting their pledge for climate action, while 0.71% feel that only the developed countries should be obliged to report annually and publicly.

# 6<sup>th</sup> Session

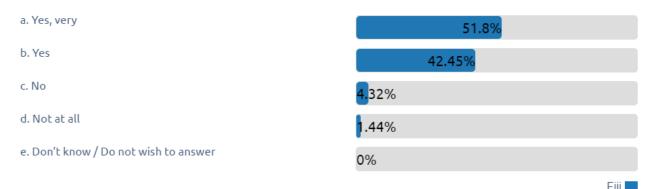
# **Evaluation Questions**

1. Were the briefing materials and videos balanced and informative?



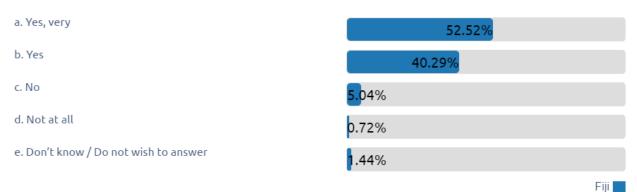
The participants reported that the briefing materials and videos provided were balanced and informative. 72% commented that the materials were very useful and 27% stated that they were useful, indicating that participants were able to understand the material and relate it to the issues discussed. Less than 1% stated that the materials were not at all useful.

# 2. Were different and opposing views presented and discussed at your table?



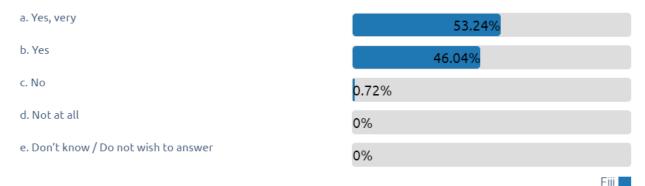
The results also show that a balanced debate took place at each table. 52% of the respondents said that "Yes, very" different and opposing views were presented and discussed at their table, and 42.5% simply said "Yes" to this question. About 5.5% stated "No" or "Not at all" to this question.

# 3. Are you generally satisfied with the organisation of the WWViews process in your country?



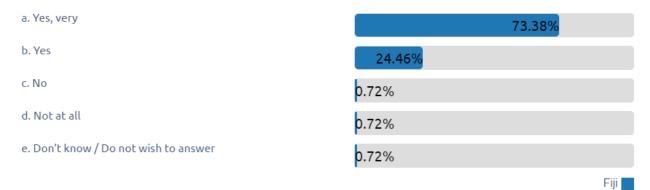
This question evaluated the satisfaction of participants with the organisation of the event. 52.5% of people stated that they were very satisfied, and 40% said yes they were satisfied with the event. This indicates that an overall 92.5% were satisfied with the way the event was organized. An overall 6% were not satisfied with the event.

# 4. Do you believe that the WWViews results will be used in a meaningful way for political decision making in relation to COP21?



In general, 99% of the participants believe that WWViews results will be used in a meaningful way for political decision making in relation to COP21. Less than 1% did not believe that these results will be used in a meaningful manner.

# 5. Should global dialogue processes like WWViews be arranged in the future on different and/or similar issues?



On the question of whether to have global dialogues such as WWViews also in the future, 98% of the participants said yes.

# 4.0 Citizen recommendations - National Session

# The following suggestions were proposed by the citizens during the National Session.

- 1. Afforestation for example 50,000 trees should be planted each year in Fiji and mangroves should receive more conservation attention.
- 2. Dependence on fossil fuels should be reduced with increased use of renewable energy at all levels (household, state). This can be achieved for example by carbon tax to both industries and vehicles, and subsidies to renewable energy projects.
- 3. Reduce pollution by encouraging recycling, proper disposal of wastes, and banning of open burning.
- 4. Better regulation and monitoring of environmental control mechanisms, such as vehicle emissions.
- 5. Developed countries should reduce their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.
- 6. International funding should reach the grass-root rather than governments only.
- 7. Incorporate climate change syllabus into school curriculum.
- 8. Community awareness needs to be increased in areas of food security and disease risk management, as these are affected by climate change.
- 9. Capacity building of local institutions/individuals to be increased. For example better training for environmental impact assessment specialists.
- 10. Government should negotiate more funding for climate change projects in Fiji.
- 11. Policies should be created through wide consultations to reach the best outcomes for all concerned.
- 12. Incorporate climate change awareness into cultural practices.
- 13. Fiji is very vulnerable to flooding. This issue should receive more attention.
- 14. Encourage sustainable agricultural practices.
- 15. Media coverage of climate change and energy issues should be increased.

# 5.0 Summary

Climate change is globally projected to affect the lives of millions of people. Switching from fossil fuel use to renewable energy is seen as one of the major steps to combat climate change, because it helps us to cut greenhouse gas emissions. While climate negotiations between governments are a commonplace, ordinary citizens have had relatively little opportunities to make their voices heard. WWViews on Climate and Energy is a global citizen participation project that was initiated by United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. It gave ordinary citizens the opportunity to influence major climate and energy decisions and policies. The consultations in Fiji involved 149 ordinary citizens giving their views in climate and energy related issues. The sample was selected to match the ethnic, age, regional and educational profile of Fiji's population.

The results revealed that people in Fiji are very concerned about the effects of climate change and they feel the effects also in their own lives. At the same time, people felt that UN climate negotiations since 1992 have not done enough to address that problem. People also felt that dealing with climate change is everybody's responsibility.

Fijian people also support policy measures such as carbon tax, renewable energy subsidies and others, to combat climate change. Also, educating broader public and protecting tropical rainforests were perceived as important measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Unsurprisingly, since Fiji is not a producer of fossil fuels, people generally supported the phasing out of further fossil fuel explorations.

Most respondents admitted knowing very little about how international climate agreements are reached. This is despite the fact, that climate change is perceived as national priority in Fiji. Overall majority of Fijian people also felt that Fiji should take actions to reduce its carbon dioxide emissions, and COP21 agreements in Paris should be legally binding to all countries. Majority of respondents also stated that they expect high-income countries to pay more for mitigation and adaptation in low-income countries. In addition, richer developing countries should have bigger financial responsibilities than the poorer developing countries.

It was also the view of people in Fiji that the funding for climate change projects from Green Climate Fund should be accessible also at local government or town level, and not only through national government. People also agreed that countries should update their climate action commitments every five years, and these should be reviewed by UN-level body. Also, countries should have the right to inspect each other's reporting, and mitigation and adaptation efforts. Overwhelming majority of respondents also agreed that countries should publish their greenhouse gas emissions and report on their progress of their contribution for climate action.

# 6.0 References

- 1. Danish Board of Technology Foundation 2015. *Manual for World Wide Views on Climate and Energy*, Danish Board of Technology Foundation, Copenhagen.
- 2. Fiji Facts & Figures as at 1<sup>st</sup> July, 2014. Fiji Bureau of Statistics, Suva.
- 3. GISTEMP Team, 2015. GISS Surface Temperature Analysis (GISTEMP). NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies. Dataset accessed 2015-07-29 at <a href="http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/">http://data.giss.nasa.gov/gistemp/</a>.
- 4. Hansen, J., R. Ruedy, M. Sato, and K. Lo, 2010. Global surface temperature change, Rev. Geophys., 48, RG4004, doi: 10.1029/2010RG000345.
- 5. Le Quéré, C., A. K. Jain, M. R. Raupach, J. Schwinger, S. Sitch, B. D. Stocker, N. Viovy, S. Zaehle, C. Huntingford, P. Friedlingstein, R. J. Andres, T. Boden, C. Jourdain, T. Conway, R. A. Houghton, J. I. House, G. Marland, G. P. Peters, G. Van Der Werf, A. Ahlström, R. M. Andrew, L. Bopp, J. G. Canadell, E. Kato, P. Ciais, S. C. Doney, C. Enright, N. Zeng, R. F. Keeling, K. Klein Goldewijk, S. Levis, P. Levy, M. Lomas, and B. Poulter. 2012. *The global carbon budget 1959–2011. Earth System Science Data Discussions*, no. 2, 1107-1157.
- 6. Sims, R.E.H. 2003. *Renewable energy: a response to climate change*, Solar Energy, New Zealand, Volume 76, Issue 1, P9-17.
- 7. Schmidt, M, Torgersen, H, Kuffner, A, Bedsted & B, Gram, S. 2015. World Wide Views Biodiversity Information Booklet, Danish Board of Technology Foundation, Copenhagen.
- 8. Wynn, G, Bedsted, B, Gram, S & Clemmensen, A. 2015. World Wide Views on Climate and Energy Information Booklet, Danish Board of Technology Foundation, Copenhagen.

# Annex 1

List of WWViews affiliated websites;

- 1. <a href="http://climateandenergy.wwviews.org/">http://climateandenergy.wwviews.org/</a> WWViews main homepage.
- 2. <a href="http://climateandenergy.wwviews.org/results/">http://climateandenergy.wwviews.org/results/</a> WWViews World Results.
- 3. <a href="http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/sb42/events/2015-10-03-15-15-world-wide-views">http://unfccc6.meta-fusion.com/sb42/events/2015-10-03-15-15-world-wide-views</a> The WWViews organizing committee had presented the first results of the WWViews in Bonn at a press conference.
- 4. <a href="https://www.flickr.com/photos/133908539@N03/">https://www.flickr.com/photos/133908539@N03/</a> Social website with pictures of WWViews citizen consultation at various countries including Fiji Islands.
- 5. <a href="http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/fiji-to-kick-off-largest-ever-global-survey-on-climate-change-wwviews/">http://newsroom.unfccc.int/unfccc-newsroom/fiji-to-kick-off-largest-ever-global-survey-on-climate-change-wwviews/</a> press release by UNFCCC.
- 6. <a href="http://www.unifiji.ac.fj/world-wide-views-on-climate-and-energy/">http://www.unifiji.ac.fj/world-wide-views-on-climate-and-energy/</a> Information on WWViews citizen consultation in Fiji available at the UniFiji Website.
- 7. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcxvGzzf-ro">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xcxvGzzf-ro</a> WWViews event in Fiji as a news item relayed by Fiji Broadcasting Commission.
- 8. <u>Fiji people take part in world's biggest climate change opinion poll | Pacific Beat | ABC Radio Australia</u> Interview of Project Manager WWViews Fiji (Ms. Priyatma Singh) by Suzie Raines of ABC Radio Australia.
- 9. <a href="http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=308875">http://www.fijitimes.com/story.aspx?id=308875</a> Newspaper article (The Fiji Times) on WWViews in Fiji.
- 10. <a href="https://twitter.com/WWViews">https://twitter.com/WWViews</a> twitter comments in relation to WWViews in Fiji.

Pictures taken at WWViews debate on June  $6^{\text{th}}$ , 2015, at the University of Fiji







(Photographs by Priit Kilgas)