

**FELA LAW AND POLICY UPDATE FORUM SEMINAR 2018
SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF MARINE RESOURCES THROUGH
LAW**

**What is at stake for Fiji and what are the latest law and policy
developments?**

25 and 26 January 2018

***The role of law in integrated coastal management. Legal
challenges faced in the management of coastal and fisheries
resources and the link between resource management, science
and the law.***

Presenter:

Isoa Korovulavula

Institute of Applied Sciences

The University of the South Pacific

Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)

ICM is universally defined as a continuous and dynamic process by which decisions are taken for the sustainable use, development, and protection of coastal and marine areas and resources ((Cincin-Sain and Knetch, 1998)

The term “integrated” implies the integration between sectors (e.g. tourism, agriculture, national planning, fisheries), stakeholders (government, private sector and NGOs), scales (national and local), discipline (physical science and social science) and space (land and sea) (Cincin-Sain and Knetch 1998)

Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)

The Fiji ICM framework is guided by the vision for the coastal zone to:

- **Maintain ecological processes and services;**
- **Preserve, enhance and rehabilitate natural resources; and**
- **Improve health and wellbeing of the people in Fiji.**

Integrated Coastal Management

- **Section 8(3) of the 2005 Fiji Environment Management Act (EMA) calls for the establishment of a committee by the National Environmental Council (NEC) to develop a coastal management plan. An ad hoc ICM committee (ICMC) was formally established in September 2009.**
- **A ICMC has been formally endorsed by NEC over the last 4 years**

Integrated Coastal Management

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Integrated Coastal Management

Two key issues arise from this definition as Fiji embarks on a coastal planning process.

- i. ICM is about decision-making processes and approaches for the sustainable management of Fiji's coastal resources. It is an assessment of existing institutional and regulatory systems governing Fiji's coastal resources and the interest of various stakeholders within current coastal environment conditions and threats.**

- ii. EMA defines Fiji's coastal zone as "the area within 30 metres inland from the high water mark and includes areas from the high water mark up to the fringing reef or is there is no fringing within a reasonable distance from the high water mark".**

A national ICM plan based on the EMA defined jurisdiction would significantly be limited if it does not encompass upstream activities beyond the 30 metre mark inland. It is imperative that the National ICM Plan covers the "ridge to reef" area if it is to effectively protect and sustainably manage Fiji's valuable coastal environment.

Issues and Challenges addressed in Integrated Coastal Management Plan

- **Indiscriminate or overfishing of inshore marine resources**
- **Waste and Pollution (solid and liquid)**
- **Public Health problems (waterborne diseases)**
- **Indiscriminate or overfishing of freshwater resources (population pressure & economic benefit aspirations)**
- **River bank erosion (farming at the edges of the river or stream banks)**
- **Gravel extraction in rivers and streams**
- **Land erosion (cultivated areas)**
- **Reclamation of Mangrove areas (construction of commercial & public infrastructure as well as coastal land recreational parks)**

Integrated Coastal Management related Legislation

Environmental Management Act

Forest Decree

Fisheries Act

State Lands Act

Native Lands Act

Native Land Trust Act

Mining Act

Rivers and Streams Act

Land Conservation and Improvement Act

Bird and Game Protection Act

National Trust for Fiji Act

Town and Country Planning Act

Rural Land Use Policy

Water Supply Act

Ports Authority of Fiji Regulations 1990

Waste Disposal and Recycling Regulation

Litter (Amendment Decree)

Public Health Act

Surfing decree

Maritime Space Act

Vinaka Vakalevu

Thank you

Questions & Comments