UNDERSTANDING THE FIJI FOREST POLICY AND HOW IT RELATES TO THE ENVIRONMENT MANAGEMENT ACT

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OUTLINE

1. Fiji – conservation values
2. Some case studies
4. Some aspects of the Fiji Forest Policy
5. Environment Management Act (2005)
Taveuni Fiji’s Fertiliser Island

• $20 million (2008)
• Unsustainable land use practices
• Diminishing soil fertility
• Illegal short-term agricultural leases
• Reserve encroachment
• “Teitei Taveuni”
Sovi Basin – the Process

- 25 + years (international consultants)
- 3+ years (local communities, Fiji government)
- Steering Committee
- National Trust of Fiji
- Community Consultations
- 2011 – Lease offer

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Fiji’s Environment Legislations

- Fiji Forest Policy (2007)
- Fiji Rural Land Use Policy (2006)
- Fiji Environment Management Act (2005)
- National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- National Environment Strategy
Fiji Forest Policy: 5 Objectives

1. Ensured ecosystem stability through conservation of forest biodiversity, water catchments and soil fertility;
2. Ensured sustainable supply of forest products and services by maintaining a sufficiently large permanent forest estate under efficient and effective management;
3. Increased engagement by landowners and communities in sustainable forest management and an equitable distribution of benefits from forest products and processes including ensured protection of intellectual property rights;
4. Increased employment in the forestry sector, sufficient supply of domestic markets and increased foreign exchange earnings through sustainable forest-based industry development and trade;
5. Enhanced national capacity to manage and develop the forest sector in a collaborative approach with involvement of all stakeholders.
6.2. Transition from timber exploitation to sustainable forest management

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6.3 Empowerment of landowners
6.4 Streamlining and upgrading forest industries
6.5 Reform of institutional framework
Permanent Forest Estates

• Cornerstone of the Fiji forest policy

• Requires the engagement of multi-stakeholders:
  – Landowners
  – Department of Forests
  – Department of Agriculture
  – Department of Environment
  – iTaukei Land Trust Board
Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice
Harvesting plan
Safety
Sustainable Forest Management

- Forest Standards Certification
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Permanent Forest Estates
- Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice
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BirdLife International
Ministry of Fisheries & Forests

Ministry of Indigenous Affairs
Department of iTaukei Language and Culture

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Creation of Permanent Forest Estates for the Benefit of Fiji’s People and Biodiversity