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# Fiji Government Perspectives on Blue Carbon and Climate Leadership

*IPBC Dialogue  
1-4 October  
Cairns, Australia*

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# Fiji's Perspective on Blue Carbon

- Fiji's extensive coastline is home to these vital ecosystems, which are crucial in **climate mitigation** and **resilience**.
- Fiji has approximately **46,000 hectares of mangroves**, one of the largest areas in the Pacific.
- **Seagrass beds** are distributed across 11 species in Fiji and cover **approximately 10,000 hectares**, contributing to marine biodiversity and carbon sequestration.
- Although **salt marshes** are more limited in Fiji, they still play a role in local ecosystem services and carbon capture.
- These ecosystems act as natural barriers against **sea-level rise**, **storm surges**, and **coastal erosion**, providing critical benefits to local communities and biodiversity.

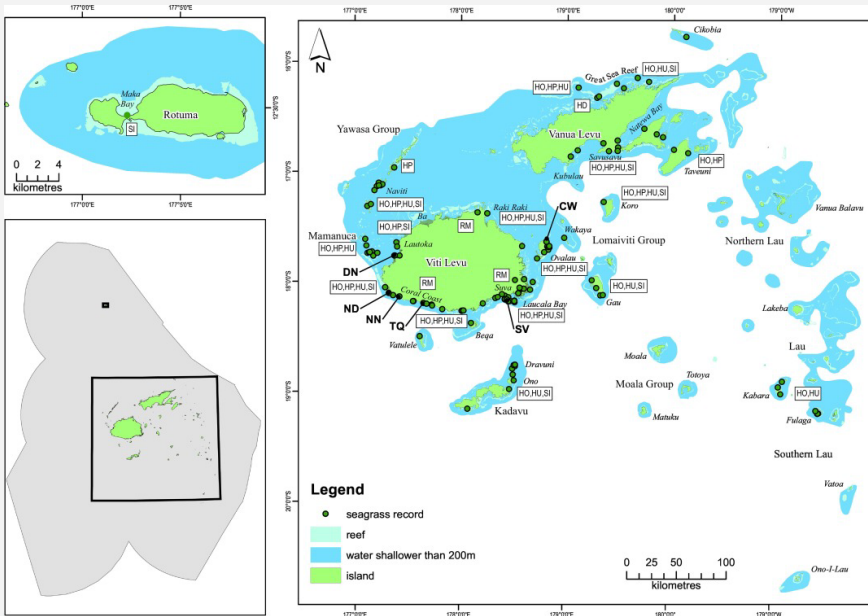
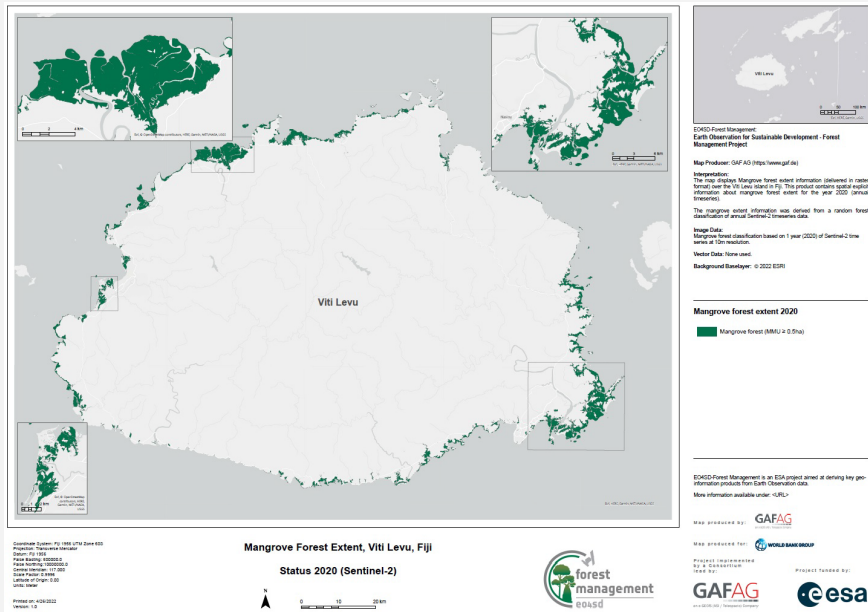




# Current Blue Carbon Efforts and National Policies

- Fiji's National Ocean Policy and Low Emission Development Strategy (LEDS) emphasizes the integration of blue carbon into national climate strategies.
- Both policies prioritize protecting and restoring blue carbon ecosystems as part of Fiji's commitment to sustainable development and climate action.
- Fiji is working to include blue carbon initiatives in its broader conservation goals, enhancing the protection of coastal ecosystems while reducing emissions.





# Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) and Blue Carbon

- Fiji's Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) process is designed to sustainably manage marine resources while integrating **blue carbon conservation**.
- The MSP framework supports **sustainable fishing, tourism, and coastal development** while ensuring critical blue carbon ecosystems like mangroves and seagrasses are protected and restored.
- MSP is key to balancing economic needs with environmental conservation, reinforcing the importance of **\*\*blue carbon ecosystems\*\*** in long-term climate resilience.



# Mangrove Conservation and Fiji's NDCs

- **Mangroves** are a cornerstone of Fiji's blue carbon strategy, with the country committed to protecting and restoring these ecosystems to increase carbon sequestration.
- Mangrove conservation and restoration are included in Fiji's **Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)** under the Paris Agreement, as a nature-based solution to climate mitigation.
- Mangrove ecosystems are crucial in protecting Fiji's coastal communities from the impacts of **sea-level rise** and **extreme weather events**.





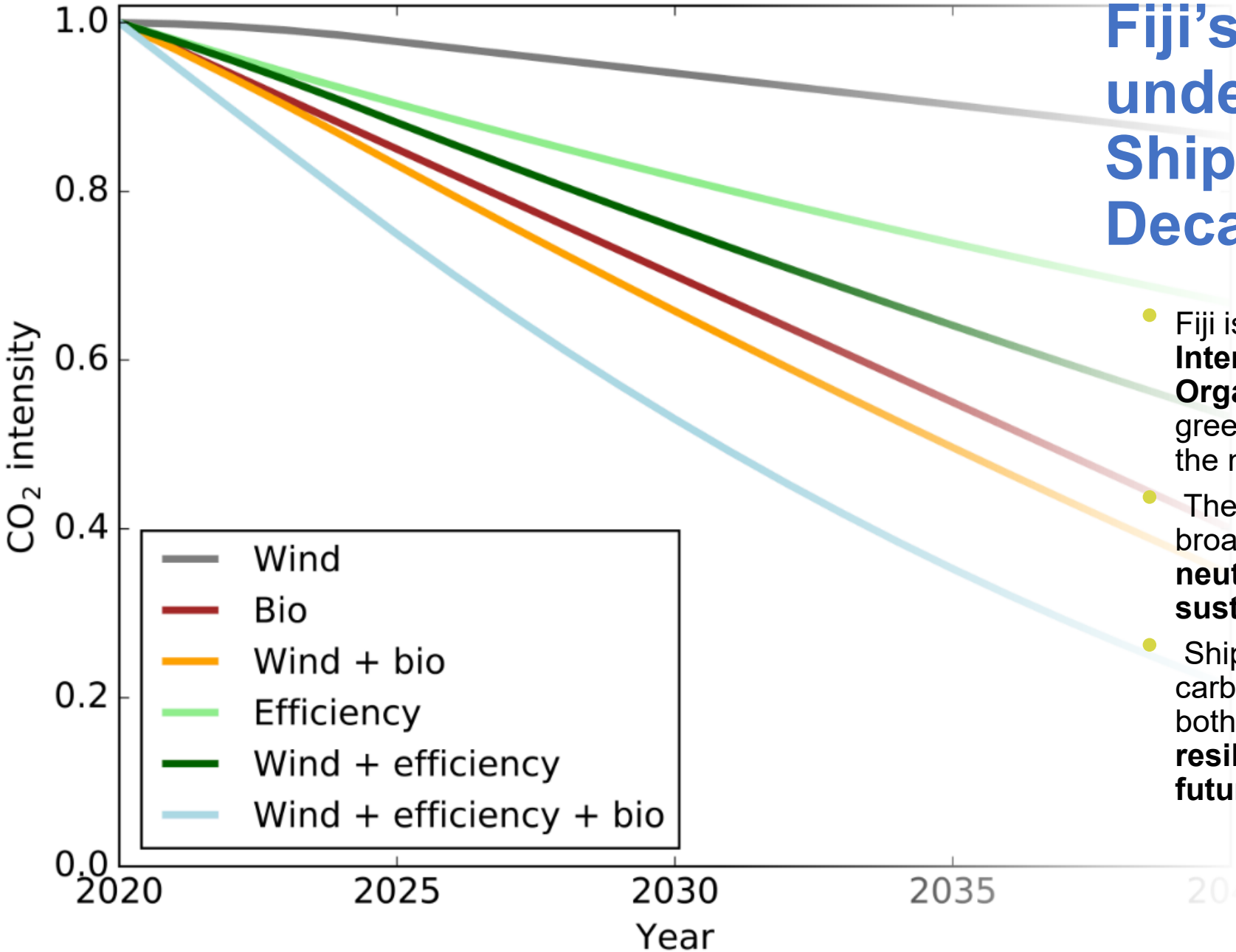


## Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership (PBSP)

- Fiji leads the **Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership (PBSP)**, aiming to decarbonize shipping across the Pacific.
- The PBSP targets a **40% reduction in shipping emissions by 2030**, with the long-term goal of **zero-carbon domestic shipping by 2050**.
- As shipping is a major contributor to carbon emissions, this initiative demonstrates Fiji's commitment to reducing its maritime footprint and fostering sustainable blue economies.



# Fiji's Commitments under the IMO for Shipping Decarbonization



- Fiji is actively working with the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the maritime sector.
- These efforts align with Fiji's broader goals of achieving **carbon neutrality** and developing a **sustainable blue economy**.
- Shipping decarbonization and blue carbon efforts are intertwined, as both contribute to **Fiji's climate resilience** and **low-emission future**.

# Synergy Between Blue Carbon and Shipping Decarbonization

- Fiji's **blue carbon ecosystems** and **shipping decarbonization efforts** work hand-in-hand to reduce the country's overall carbon footprint.
- Blue carbon projects not only capture and store carbon but also help mitigate the impacts of **shipping emissions**.
- By integrating these initiatives, Fiji positions itself as a leader in combining **nature-based solutions** with **technological innovation** in addressing climate change



# Fiji's Future Plans for Blue Carbon

- **Strengthening partnerships** with international organizations and regional bodies to further enhance blue carbon projects.
- **Improving data collection** and monitoring of blue carbon ecosystems, ensuring accurate assessments for future conservation strategies.
- **Scaling up blue carbon projects** in line with **NDCs**, enhancing policy frameworks to include more comprehensive protection and restoration efforts.
- Expanding **blue carbon financing mechanisms**, such as **blue bonds** and other innovative funding models, to support sustainable long-term initiatives.



***Vinaka Vakalevu and Thank You !***

