

BULA

FOREST GOVERNANCE AND TRACKING TECHNOLOGIES . EXPERIENCE OF FIJI

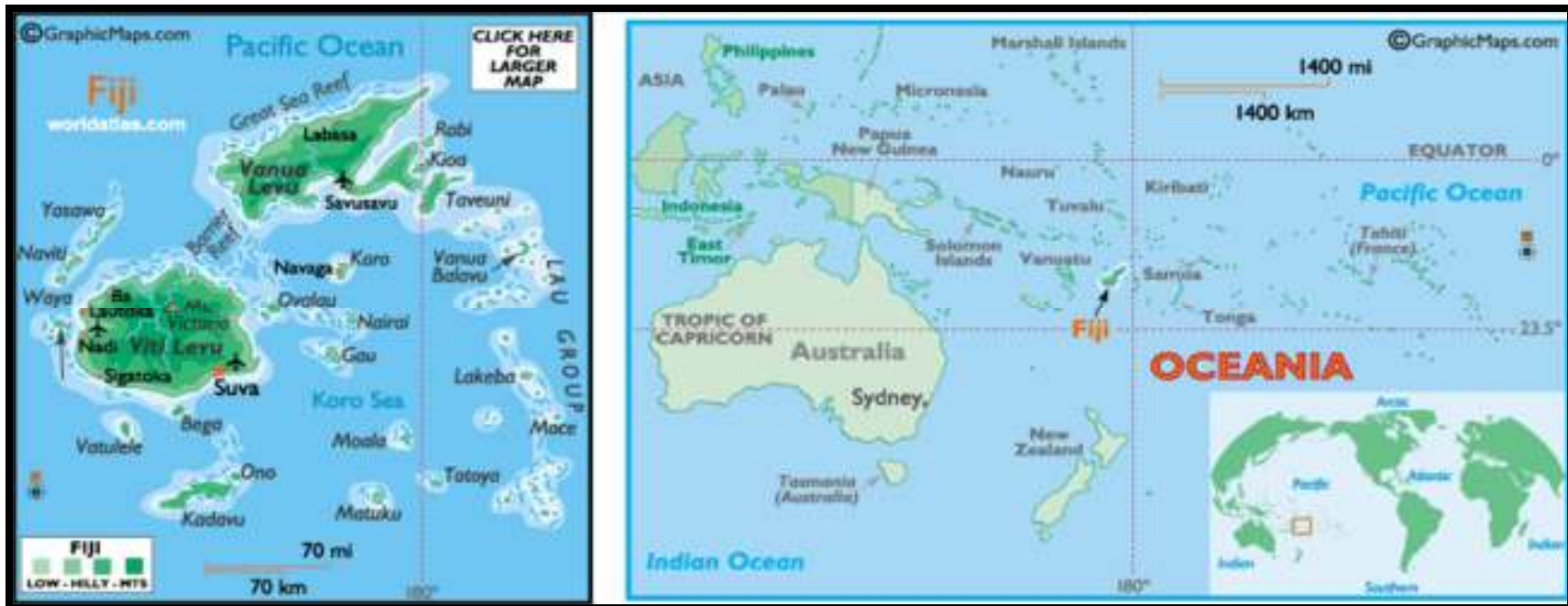




OUTLINE

- Country
- Forest Governance
- Forest Tracking

Fiji Islands - Geographical Location



- Fiji lies south of the equator in the Western Pacific region
- About 320 islands
- Tropical climate throughout the year
- Population – Under 1 million





Forest Resources

- total landmass of 1.83 million hectares
- Viti Levu (1.02 million hectares)
- Vanua Levu (556,000 hectares),
- make up 86% of the total land area



Forest Area by Species

- **Total forest area – 827,120ha**
- **Native forest – 764,530ha**
- **Plantation forest – 93,000ha**

Mahogany and Pine



Land Tenure

- belongs to the communal land owning units recognised by law.
- Fijian landowners may lease land to specified users through the Itaukei Land Trust Board
- Production forest under lease is effectively secure only until it is logged
- Once logged, the land reverts to the *communal owners*
- may be re-logged under one-year licence or converted to other uses.



Fiji Forest Policy 2007

- Approved by the Interim Cabinet at its meeting of 06 November 2007
- An important step in the continuous development of a National Forest Programme.
- strives at achieving a consensus of all stakeholders on policies and implementation measures towards conservation and Sustainable Management of the Nation's forest resources





National Goal for the Forest Sector

- Sustainable management of Fiji's forests to maintain their natural potential and to achieve greater social, economic and environmental benefits for current and future generations.



Other SFM related activities currently undertaken by the ministry

- NBSAP: National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan
- REDD+: Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
- Collaboration with NGOs: Nature Fiji Mareqeti Viti
- Planting of 1 million Trees (a worldwide concept)
- Enforcement of the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice



Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice

- Fiji's own Forest Harvesting Code of Practice was launched in 1990 and has been in operation for approximately 10 years.
- All logging licenses are subject to compliance with the Fiji Forest Harvesting Code of Practice.
- Operator training and certification of operators, particularly in timber harvesting are the main priority activities.
- PHI – part of the revised code



Tracking Technologies

- Taking care of harvesting issues first.
- Harvest site > truck > sawmill.
- Supporting the certification of the chain of custody
- Encouragement of expanded value-added processing of timber.





Chain of Custody

- The Fiji Government will support the tracking of products from certified forests as it is processed by various companies.
- The Fiji Government will support certification of wood packaging material in accordance with internationally accepted standards





Fijis Progress on Forest Tracking

- **Certification of forest management units and chain of custody will remain voluntary,**
- **forest management companies wanting to gain an internationally recognised certification label would make their own arrangements to do so at any time.**
- **No forest has so far been certified in Fiji, but the 66,981 hectares of forest plantations managed by FHCL are currently undergoing assessment by the Rainforest Alliance Smart Wood program for certification under the FSC umbrella.**
- **Fiji Pine Ltd is now in the process of going through the Certification**



Progress - cont

- Log number
- Coupe number and forest where logs are harvested from
- Initials of the forest technician marking the logs
- Length, Diameter and Grade of the logs





Latest Development

- Introduce Mahogany Industry Development Decree and the Mahogany Licensing and Branding Decree to allow Fijian mahogany to be recognised internationally
- established the
- chain of custody protocols;
- harvesting code of practice;
- minimum production and packaging standards;
- inspections and audits standards;
- certificate of legality standards;
- safety standards;
- and penalties for violations of the protocol.



Branding Process

- In April 2012, Fiji has launched the branding process for Fiji Pure Mahogany,
- new hardwood brand that will be the first brand to be beneficially owned by a sovereign nation.
- The brand is being filed in about 28 countries worldwide
- intended to meet global need for legal and sustainably harvested mahogany.



END OF PRESENTATION

THANK YOU