



# Disaster and Risk Management Fiji Experience

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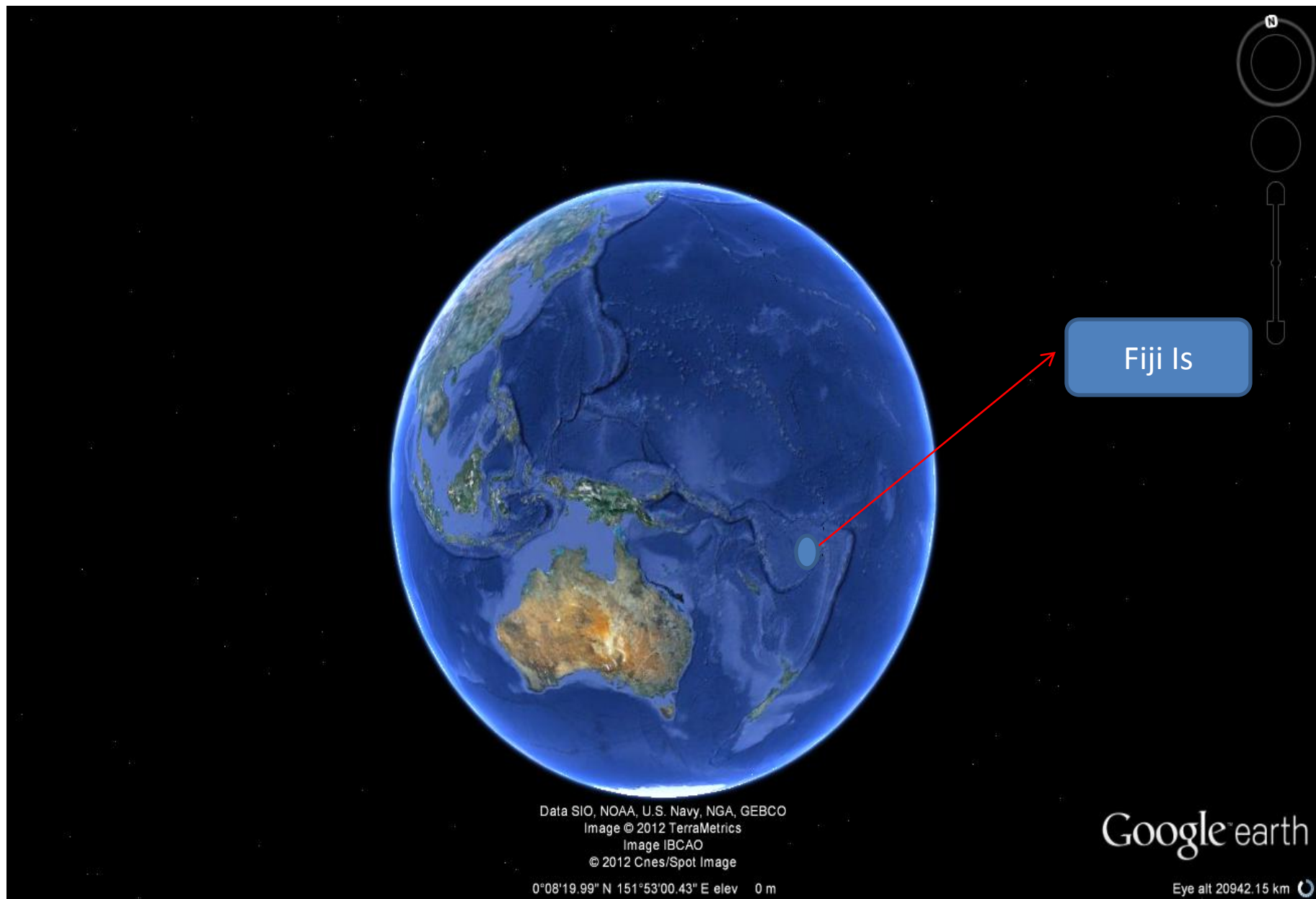
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- Background.
- Why strengthen Disaster Risk Management Fiji?
- National Disaster Risk Management Arrangement in Fiji.
- Strategies and Initiatives towards Disaster Management in Fiji.
- Challenges and Areas of Assistance needed in Disaster Management in Fiji.
- Opportunities

# BACKGROUND

## Basic Geography of Fiji

- **Location:**  
Lies in the centre of PACIFIC OCEAN, mid way between the equator and the South Pole.
- **Geographic Location:**
  - It is made up of 330 islands , the two major islands are
  - **Viti Levu** - having land area of 10,429 square Km
  - **Vanua Levu** - having land area of 5,556 square Km
- Other main islands are :
  - Taveuni (470sq km), Kadavu (411sq km), Gau (140 km) and Koro (400 sq km) ,
  - Remaining 916 sq km - shared by 323 scattered small islands.
- **Total land area:** 18,330 sq km.
- **Populations :** 750,000



Data SIO, NOAA, U.S. Navy, NGA, GEBCO  
Image © 2012 TerraMetrics  
Image IBCAO  
© 2012 Cnes/Spot Image

0°08'19.99" N 151°53'00.43" E elev 0 m

Google earth

Eye alt 20942.15 km

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# MAP OF FIJI

PACIFIC OCEAN



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# WHY STRENGTHEN DRM FOR FIJI

- Our Strategic location - Fiji is in the hub of the South West Pacific – transit point to regional countries, air and sea routes between mainland America to Australia and New Zealand
- Located in the Cyclone belt region of SW Pacific
- Located in the “Pacific Ring of Fire”
- The geography presents that Fiji is prone to flooding, landslide, high waves, drought, fire, earthquake and tsunami



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# Experiences

- In 2010 termites found in Western and Northern Parts of Fiji. Government spend more than \$1m trying to contain the deadly insects
- In 2009 Marine Iguana were found in North Eastern parts of Fiji. Becoming a threat to marine organism and vegetation.
- Large African snails found in one of the container at our main port of entry in Suva.

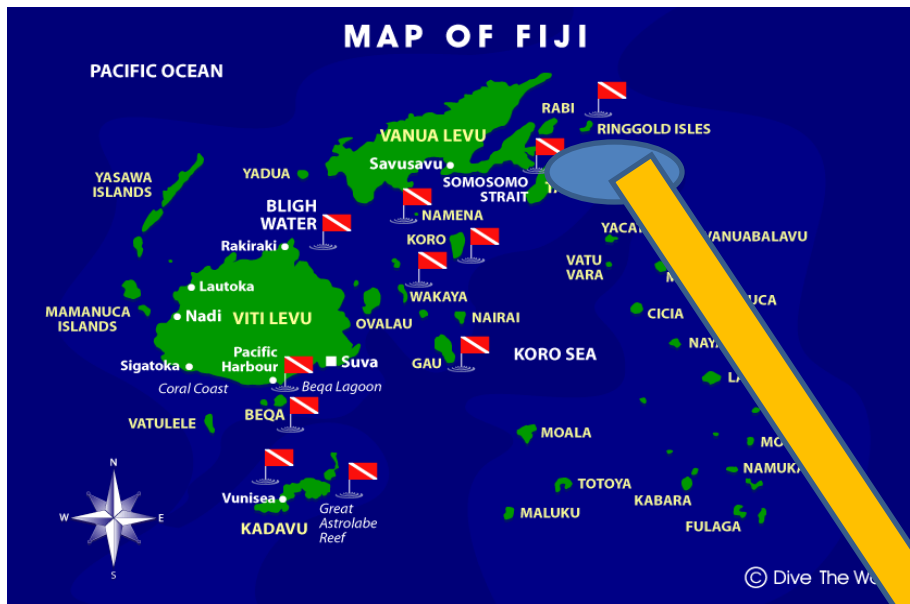




In 2010 Rare insect species called termites were found in the Northern and Western parts of Fiji destroying hundred of houses and trees



## MAP OF FIJI



Locations where  
marine iguana was  
found. No increasing.



# Large snails (African Snails) found in ship containers



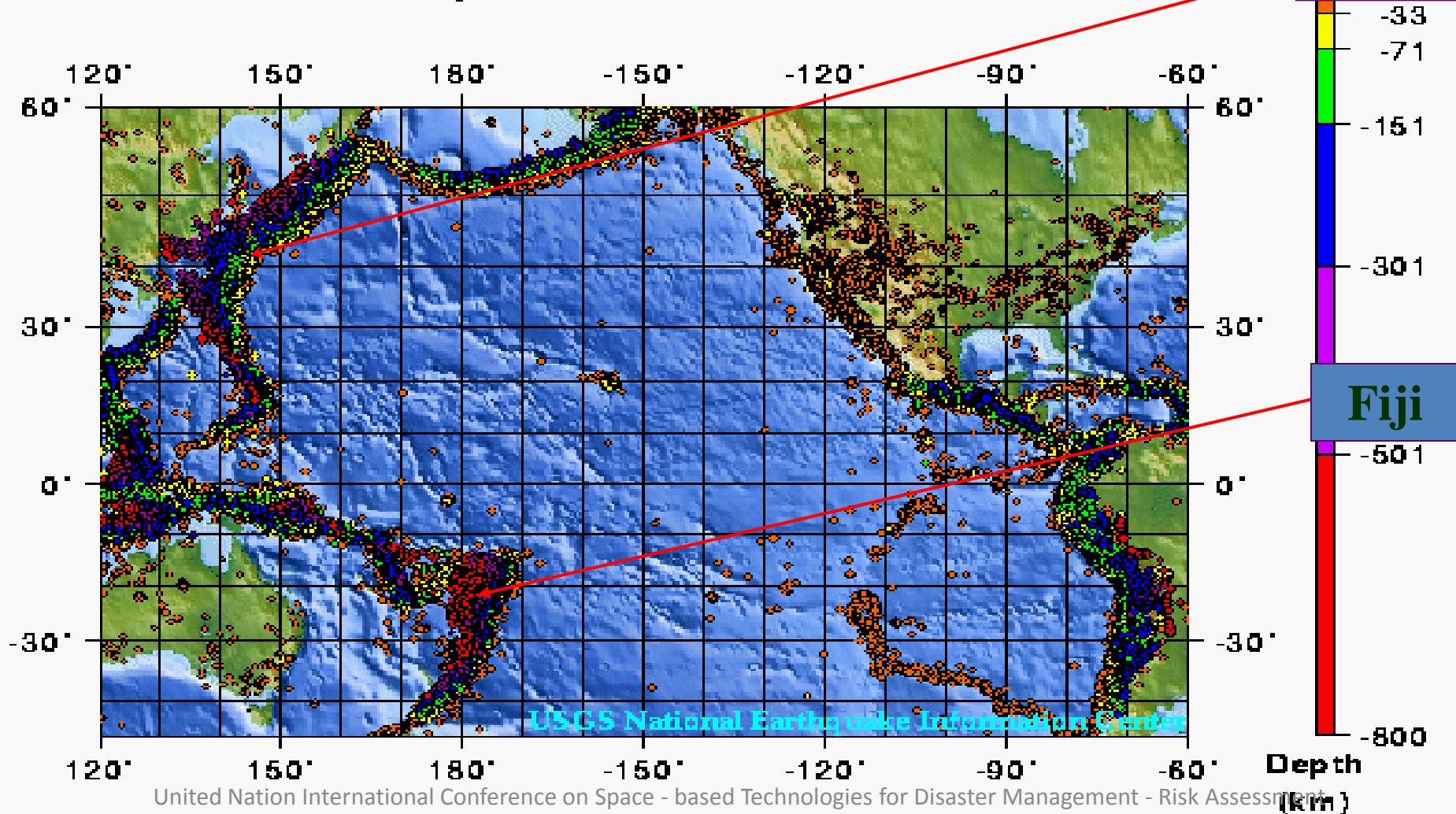
# Control

- Establishment of Border Control Unit in 2010. Joint venture of Customs, Police, Immigration and Bio-security Department.



# Fiji – Located in the “Pacific Ring of Fire”

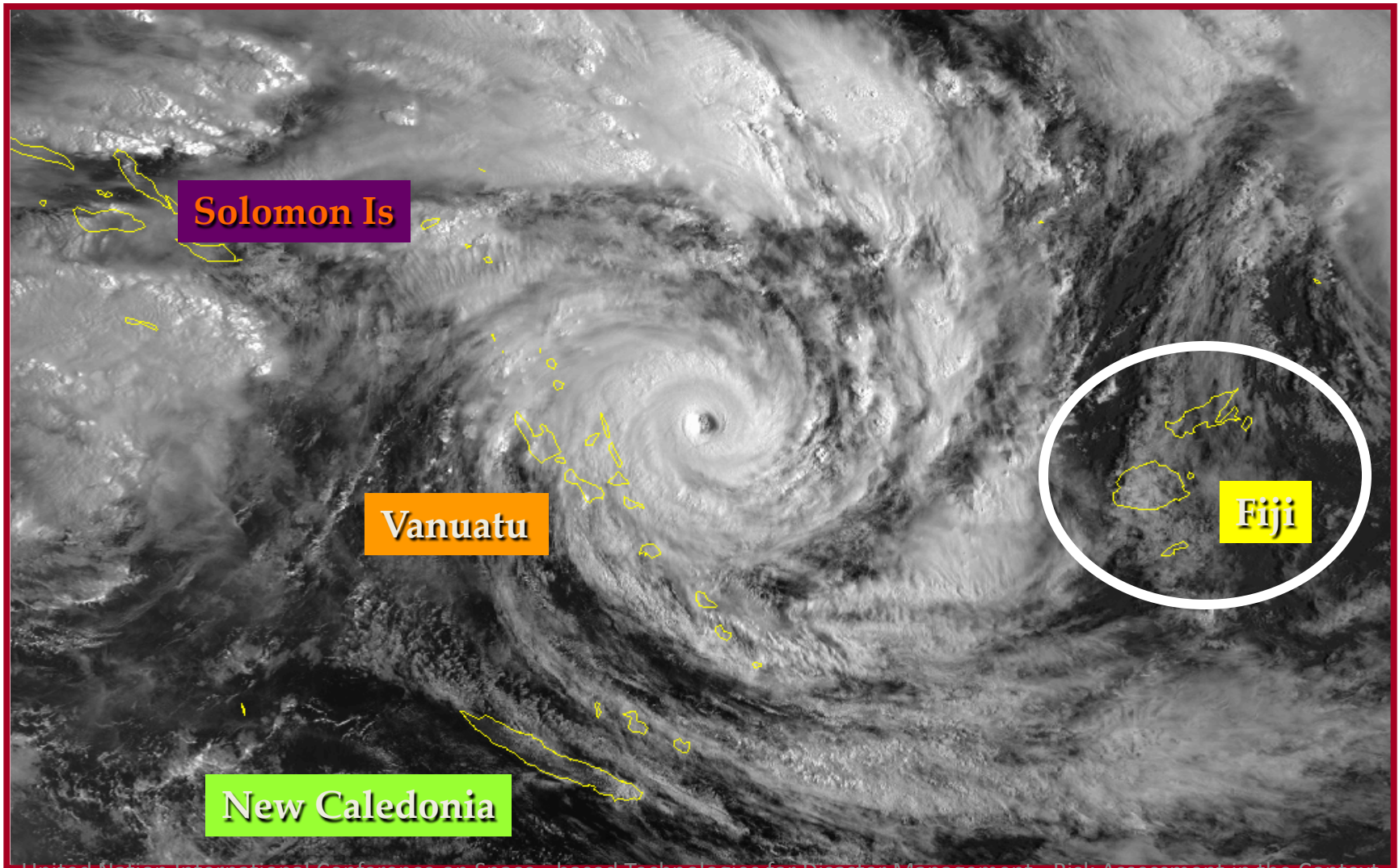
Seismicity of the Pacific Rim 1975 - 1995







# In the Cyclone Belt



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Rehabilitation  
(constructions of  
cyclone proof house)





# Landslide and Floodings

Landslides in Fiji.





# Control Measures

## Flooding

- Constructions of Artificial Rivers.
- Enforcing of Carbon Trade program to reduce loggings.
- Constructions of seawalls.
- Relocations.

## Landslides

- Relocations.
- Retaining Walls
- Trees Replanting Programmes.
- Proper planning on Landuse.

# NATIONAL DRM ARRANGEMENT





# NATIONAL DRM ARRANGEMENT

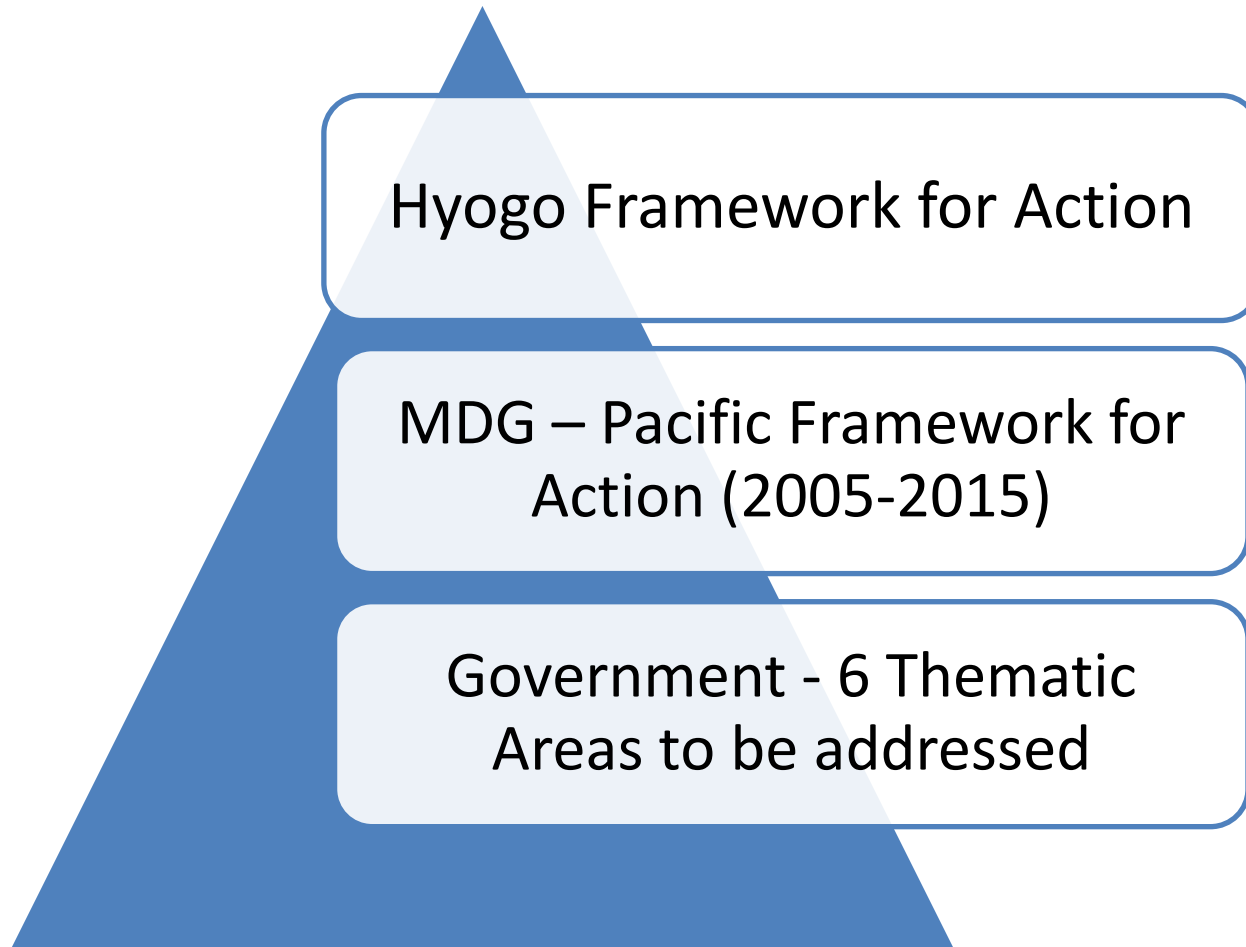
## National

- 4 Divisions
- 27 Districts
- 189 Tikina
- 1171 Villages
- 13 Municipalities
- Settlements
  - Legal – on lease and owned land
  - tenancy at will

# Strategies & Initiative Towards Disaster management

FIJI

# HYOGO FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION



# Outline

- POLICY
- TRAINNING
- AWARENESS & EDUCATION
- RM [CHARM] & RESEARCH
- EPC & EM

# GOVT – POLICY

Key Areas that will be addressed

- good governance.
- ‘Whole of Government’ and ‘whole of country’.
- Accountability and transparency at all levels
- Theme 1 – PFA 2005 -2015 – Governance – Organisational, Institutional, Policy and Decision making Frameworks.

## Action undertaken Fiji Government.

- 1998 Disaster Management Act has been reviewed- Draft has been submitted to Solicitor General Office for endorsement.
- 1995 Disaster Management Plan – also under review.

# TRAINING & AWARENESS

- Information Management.
- Information System.
- Public Awareness and Education
- Training – National & Regional.

## **Action undertaken Fiji Government.**

- 1 week (2<sup>nd</sup> week of October) annually is dedicated – National Disaster Awareness Week
- Government Official and other stakeholders including NGO's are attending Trainings overseas and local organised by the National Disaster Management Office, United Nations and Regional Organisations like SOPAC and SPC. TRAINING IS ON GOING FROM NATIONAL, DIVISIONAL, DISTRICT & COMMUNITY.  
[GOVT, UN COUNTERPARTS & NGOS]
- Education – Institutionalising Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change at the University of the South Pacific in 2013 – Fully sponsored by government.
- Government Plan – to filter this down to primary/infant level education



# RISK MANAGEMENT-CHARM & RESEARCH

- Planning for Disaster Management and Promoting a Culture of Resilience.
- Effects of Hazard can be Reduced.
- Strengthened Networks and Partnerships.

## **Action undertaken Fiji Government.**

- Integrated Rural Development framework headed by Divisional Commissioners (Pillar 7 – Peoples Charter for Change Peace and Progress).
- Involvement of Regional Organisations like UN, SOPAC and SPC.
- Use of GIS softwares (Map vulnerable areas)
- Installations of Early Warning Systems.
- Upgrading of Metrological Equipments.
- Restructure

# **Emergency Planning and Coordination & Emergency Management**

- Improving Disaster Management Arrangements for Preparedness, Response and Recovery Activities.
- Coordination of the Most Effective methods and Relationships for dealing with its impact.
- Government – strive to achieve models for disaster management that are both effective and sustainable, and include regional cooperation.

## **Action undertaken Fiji Government.**

- 25 HF RADIOS, GEN SET DIV & DIST, GIS SOFTWARE,
- IDA E-FORM, DATA BASE DEV,
- UPGRADE OF NEOC & DEOC & DIST EOC

# Challenges and Areas of Assistance needed in Disaster Management

Fiji

# Relationship between NDMO and Early Warning System

- Early Warning System for Cyclone, Flood, Earthquake, Tsunami, Landslide and Responsible Agencies. (NDMO rely on Met Dept to give the early warning). Eg TC Ami in 2003.
- NDMO Role in Issuance of Public Advisories. Eg Flooding of Labasa Town in 2009.
- Existing means of communications: FM Radio Station, HF Systems, Tel, Fax, E-mail, Rural Tele Centres. (Broadcasting of Weather Situation).
- Lack of Knowledge – Modern Technology.
- The Gaps.

# Opportunities

Fiji

# Opportunities

- Availability of a range of telecommunications systems.
- Greater community participation in national development.
- Community resilience and sustainable development.
- New development initiatives and partners within and outside the country.

**XIE!!! XIE!!!**  
**VINAKA VAKALEVU..**  
**THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LISTENING.**