COP23
PIDF PARTICIPATION
REPORT

Pacific Islands Development Forum

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
BONN 2017
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Gratitude is expressed to the Governments of Solomon Islands, the Republic of Fiji, the People’s Republic of China, the Republic of Kosovo and the Kingdom of Belgium for all assistance provided to enable PIDF’s participation at the COP23. Acknowledgement is also expressed to the COP23 Secretariat for their guidance and assistance.
BACKGROUND

The UN Climate Change Conference convened from 6-17 November 2017, in Bonn, Germany under the Presidency of Fiji. It brought together over 16,000 participants, including over 9,200 government officials, 5,500 representatives of UN bodies and agencies, intergovernmental organizations and civil society organizations, and 1,200 members of the media.

The PIDF delegation was composed by:

- François Martel, Secretary General, Head of Delegation;
- Anais Rouveyrol, Team Leader Members and Partners Services;
- Mark Borg, Team Leader Program Management;
- Nitish Narayan, Team Leader Communication.

Negotiations took place in the “Bula Zone” and side events were in the “Bonn Zone.” The PIDF Team spent most of its time in the bustling atmosphere of the Bonn Zone, mostly a civil society space, where subnational governments, businesses, and civil society convened to network, exchange knowledge, and make announcements of commitment and higher ambition.

The combined energy of civil society and non-state actors conveyed a strong message through global media that actors from all countries, including the United States, remain strongly committed to taking action on climate change.

PIDF announced initiatives for climate action and participated in 24 side-events to bring the urgency of ensuring higher ambition to the forefront. Due to the extremely demanding presence of the PIDF Secretary General in side events, a few events that PIDF was invited to attend were not possible because of conflicting times and logistical availability.
PIDF ACHIEVEMENTS DURING COP 23 INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

PACIFIC ISLANDS INSPIRING LEADERSHIP IN RENEWABLE ENERGY

During a side event held by Solar Head of State (SHOS) and the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) on the first day of COP23, the Pacific region’s advances in renewable energy took the spotlight. The event in the Fiji Pavilion featured speakers from the governments of Tonga, Niue, Tokelau and Palau and representatives from Greenpeace and ClimateWorks Australia to discuss the various successes of renewable energy in the region and transformative solutions, and the benefit it is bringing to residents.

DISAPPEARING ISLANDS

PIDF hosted a side event on the request from its Chair on Disappearing Islands on Tuesday November 7 2017 from 10.45am to 11.45am at the Fiji Pavilion, Bonn Zone. Five islands in the Solomon Islands have submerged underwater and six more have experienced a dramatic reduction in shoreline due to man-made climate change. The event focused on what this meant to the future of the Pacific region and Pacific people, where much of the land consists of low lying islands. There were a number of implications to this including issues associated with the integrity of Island nations’ EEZs. If this trend continues, climate induced displacement and migration of people will become inevitable. Issues such as will island nations be in a position to seek compensation for what is clearly a case of loss and damage for these countries were also briefly touched on. Participants at the side event were reminded not to further exacerbate this problem and that the global community needs to quickly limit temperature rise below the 1.5°C target, primarily by keeping coal in the ground, limiting emissions from transport, and preserving the oceans and the cryosphere, all issues that have been inadequately addressed in the Paris Agreement. The side event brought together a panel consisting of representatives from Solomon Islands, the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum Mr François Martel, Professor Edvard Hviding from the University of Bergen and a representative of Parvati.org who is proposing the establishment of a Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary. The event linked the rising of sea levels in the Pacific to the melting ice caps of the Arctic.

KEEPING FOSSIL FUELS IN THE GROUND

PIDF Secretary General informed participants at a COP23 side event on a Talanoa on Keeping fossil fuels in the ground that much faster & decisive action is needed to phase-out coal and that diplomatic and political leadership is needed that is not influenced by the coal industry and its powerful lobby. The side event was organised by the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network and PIDF was invited to be on an interactive panel of activists and technical experts at the uniting for climate Talanoa space, Bonn Zonn on 8 November, 2017.

WE, THE PACIFIC

In an emotionally overcharged event, the PIDF Secretary General was honored to be part of the “We, the Pacific”, talking about Pacific Priorities COP23 side event held at the uniting for climate Talanoa Space, Bonn Zone. The event organised by the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN), 350.org, Pacific Climate Warriors and the Office of the Prime Minister of Tuvalu, witnessed the 350 Pacific Climate Warriors present their #HAVEYOURSEI Declaration to remind the world that for us in the Pacific, climate action is about survival. In this authentic display of Pacific Island voices, they united to support Pacific leaders in upholding this moral stance at COP23.
**KEEPING FOSSIL FUELS IN THE GROUND**

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**EPOP OBSERVATIONS: CALLING FOR ACTIONS**

The PIDF Secretary General was part of an interactive panel for a side event on the *Pacific Youth Dialogue on Climate Change: Questions Live* that was held at the COP23 Fiji pavilion on 8 November, 2017. The live interactive session was also attended by the Fiji Climate Change Champion, Inia Seruiratu. Secretary General, François Martel was asked questions on natural resources management facing global warming and climate change and on climate risk management and adaptation projects. The event was organised by the ePOP – (eParticipatory Observers Project), a new concept conceived by RFI planète radio (France Medias Monde) and developed in partnership with IRD, PIDF, Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) and The University of the South Pacific.

**LIMITING TEMPERATURE RISE TO 1.5°C: IMPLICATIONS ON FOOD SECURITY, DISPLACEMENT AND MIGRATION**

Participants of a side event on Limiting temperature rise to 1.5°C at COP23 were informed that our current trajectory towards 4°C degree Celsius increase since pre-industrial level is far from the letter and spirit of the Paris Agreement and it is also irresponsible towards people and the planet, and its impact for Pacific islands remains existential. The event held on November 9, 2017 was co-organised by the International Center for Agricultural Research in the Dry Areas (ICARDA) and the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) discussed implications on food security, displacement and migration.

**ADDRESSING CLIMATE JUSTICE: CLIMATE LOSS AND DAMAGE & WHO SHOULD PAY**

Secretary General Martel was invited to be on a side event panel with a focus on *Addressing Climate Justice: Climate loss and damage & who should pay*. The event organised by Climate Justice Programme, Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN), Climate Action Network South Asia, Stamp Out Poverty was held at the uniting for climate change Talanoa space, Bonn Zone at COP23. The PIDF Secretary General highlighted work undertaken by PIDF on loss & damage as part of the Suva Declaration and also as in the proposed Pacific Climate Treaty which is being championed by PIDF and partners such as PICAN through a consultative and inclusive process.

**REDUCING MARITIME TRANSPORT GHG EMISSIONS: DECARBONISING SUPPLY CHAINS**

The PIDF Secretary General was invited to present on Reducing Maritime Transport Green House Gas (GHG) Emissions: Decarbonising Supply Chains on the Transport Thematic Day at COP 23, "Transport’s Contribution towards Delivering the Paris Agreement" on Saturday November 11 in Room 6, Bonn Zone. The side event was organised by the International Association of Public Transport (UITP), International Transport Forum (ITF), International Union of Railways (UIC) and the Paris Process on Mobility and Climate (PPMC).
**THE PACIFIC'S NEW “GREEN GOLD”- BAMBOO**

Bamboo is a critical material for Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and could be an essential plant for helping fight climate change. The UN international climate conference heard at COP23 during a side event on *Bamboo for Combatting Climate Change in Island Developing States* on 11 November, 2017. The side event, organized by the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR), was held at the Fiji Pavilion and saw senior representatives and technical experts from island developing states and international organisations share successful case studies of bamboo for climate change adaptation and mitigation in island developing states, with a special emphasis on assisting SIDS.

**FOSSIL FUELS SUPPLY: PACIFIC CALL AND GLOBAL RESPONSE**

A talanoa was held on Addressing Fossil Fuels Supply: Pacific call and global response at COP23 uniting for climate Talanoa space on November 12, 2017. Present at this event was the PIDF Secretary General, François Martel, Rod Campbell from the Australian Institute, Laura Merill from the International Institute for Sustainable Development, and Tzeporah Beraman, a Canadian author and activist. Secretary General Martel brought to the discussion highlights of PIDFs work on climate change in the Pacific which included the ambitious Suva Declaration and the call for a moratorium on fossil fuels, work on a proposed Pacific Climate Treaty, PIDF Roadmap on Climate Change and our continued work on advocacy and climate action in the Pacific especially towards the support of the global call to shift away from fossil fuels and move towards renewable energy.

**LOSS & DAMAGE: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES TO BE GREEN ISLANDS - CLIMATE SMART**

The PIDF Secretary General was invited to present at a High Level side event on Loss and Damage & the 2030 Agenda: Building Strong Linkages at the COP23 on Wednesday November 15 held at the Fiji Pavilion, Bonn Zone. This side event was organised by UNDESA in collaboration with the President of COP23 (Fiji), the incoming President of COP24 (Poland) and the Chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (Maldives) and the UN agencies. This Side Event was intended to be a demonstration of the Co-Organizer’s commitment, focus and continued political emphasis on the issue of Loss and Damage. It highlighted the need for and served to encourage all stakeholders, in the spirit of the Paris Agreement, to address the issue of Loss and Damage in a more focused and coherent manner.

**LAUNCH OF THE PACIFIC ENVIRONMENT & CLIMATE EXCHANGE (PECX)**

The Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) presented their carbon emissions offset payment for three of its staff carbon footprint who travelled from Fiji to the COP23 in Bonn at a special side event held at the Talanoa space. The side event which witnessed the launch of the Pacific Environment & Climate Exchange (PECX) which is also an innovative tool of the Pacific Green Business Centre, a digital platform to promote green business models in the Pacific. PECX seeks to create environmental, climate change & sustainable development solutions by empowering & connecting people, ideas & projects in Pacific island countries with people. PIDF was joined by the University of the South Pacific’s (USP) Professor Elisabeth Holland who also presented the USP teams carbon offset payment to Kesaia Tabunakawai, Head of WWF Pacific and a PECX trustee and board member.
PALAU BECAME THE LATEST PIDF MEMBER

On 15 November, the Republic of Palau signed of the instrument of accession to the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF) making it the organisation’s 14th member (12 member States). Following the signing of the accession document, Palau, PIDF and Solar Head of State signed an MOU for Palau to benefit from the installation of solar panels on a yet to be determined government building.

PIDF SUPPORTS CLIMATE DAMAGES TAX DECLARATION

The PIDF Secretary General was requested to be on a panel discussion at a side event on Attributing Climate Impact to major Fossil Fuel companies held at Meeting Room 12, Bonn Zone on Thursday November 16, 2017 where he supported the call for a Climate Damages Tax Declaration.

PACIFIC REGIONAL CLIMATE POLICY

PIDF was represented by Team Leader Program Management, Mark Borg, on a side event discussing Pacific Regional Climate Policy held at the uniting for climate Talanoa space at the COP23 Bonn Zone. The event organised by the Pacific Islands Climate Action Network (PICAN) also featured Scott Hook from the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat. An insightful overview was provided to enhance participants’ comprehension of PIDF’s engagements, with its growing list of genuine partners, on climate change from the onset of the deliberations and achievements of the Suva Declaration to the PIDF Climate Change roadmap and a proposed Pacific Climate Treaty. PIDFs work on high ambition diplomacy and progress on green/blue economies to the progressive work planned to be undertaken through PIDFs strategic plan to advance climate action & advocacy in the Pacific was also highlighted. Participants were reminded on the need to end the reliance on coal and move towards renewable energy with a call to coal producing countries to put an end to coal subsidies if they are to truly meet the Paris Agreement targets.

HIGH LEVEL CALL TO CONSTRAIN OIL, GAS and COAL PRODUCTION TO ACHIEVE THE PARIS GOALS

High level officials from Pacific Islands have called for a reining in of fossil fuel production in order to stay within the climate limits agreed to in Paris. They were joined in their call by civil society, indigenous, and academic voices. These calls echo the Lofoten Declaration, which affirms that it is the urgent responsibility and moral obligation of wealthy fossil fuel producers to lead in these efforts. The Lofoten Declaration has been signed by 500 organizations globally and was signed on November 16, 2017 by François Martel, the Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Development Forum (PIDF).

REDEFINING ISLAND RESILIENCE

Islands are on the frontline of global changes and feel the impacts very directly - from climate change and resource depletion, to urban growth, health threats and food pressures. There is a need for a new model centered on strong multi-sectoral partnerships if islands are to both survive and thrive. The PIDF team took the opportunity to network and discuss upcoming projects in Palau, Fiji and RMI with their genuine partners Precovery Labs and Global Island Partnership (GLISPA) as implementation of resilient, sustainable and equitable development at a local level and strong partnerships are critical to achieving the international community’s shared global agenda.
PIDF SUPPORTS THE OCEAN PATHWAY PARTNERSHIP

The evidence of the link between climate change and the ocean's role in climatic regulation is obvious said the PIDF Secretary General during a special side event on the launch of the Ocean Pathway Partnership at the COP23 in Bonn, Germany. The launch also presented a perfect opportunity for the Secretary General to highlight the accomplishments of PIDF towards progress made for the Pacific Year for the Oceans 2017 and outcomes of a high level Pacific Blue Economy conference held earlier this year, both of which are part of our two voluntary commitments to the UN Oceans Conference held in New York.

"The Pacific people’s dependence on their ocean is also very clear. With PIDF’s push to focus efforts in developing sustainable blue economy it becomes extremely important to limit the impacts of climate change on our ocean as this threatens the very lives and livelihoods of our people," said the PIDF Secretary General, François Martel.

BILATERAL MEETINGS

The PIDF Secretary General utilized the opportunity to hold successful bilateral meetings with delegates from Belgium and Argentina to discuss areas of mutual collaboration and support. A number of meetings were also held with potential project partners as part of PIDF’s networking strategy which included meetings with the Global Island Partnership (GLISPA), Greenpeace International and Precovery Labs to name a few.
ANNEX 1 - COP23 Special E-Bulletin (Link)

Link to COP23 Bulletin

http://pacificidf.bmetrack.com/c/v?e=C12525&c=A8BBE&t=0&i=7E331CCD&email=67kEfDNiaMLD1mmmOeQT41ChLVqEDDiq

Link to Photo Gallery

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1XKZvUvGAcnChxzpQoQnVt8uBAjSek4MX
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATES</th>
<th>SIDE EVENT</th>
<th>ROLE</th>
<th>SUMMARY</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>6th November</td>
<td>Pacific Islands Inspiring Leadership in Renewable Energy, Bonn</td>
<td>Chair</td>
<td>PDF chaired side event hosted by Solar Head of State on the first day of COP23 titled “Pacific Islands Inspiring Leadership in Renewable Energy” where the focus was on leadership demonstrated by the Pacific and other SIDS on sustainable energy, including decarbonisation strategies presented by Greenpeace and ClimateWorks Australia. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>7th November</td>
<td>Disappearing Islands, Bonn</td>
<td>Event Host</td>
<td>PDF hosted a side event titled “Disappearing Islands” focused in the thematic categories of Enhancing ambition, Loss and Damage. The SG presented in the event looking through the lens of Loss and Damage with a focus on climate induced displacement. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>7th November</td>
<td>Achieving a Just Transition: Climate Change the Sustainable Markets Foundation, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event co-hosted by Sustainable Markets Foundation and 350.org titled “Achieving a Just Transition: Climate Change the Sustainable Markets Foundation”, the SG presented on the Climate Treaty and the work PIDF has been doing around the theme.</td>
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<td>8th November</td>
<td>Young climate and environment reporters, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event co-hosted by USP and ePOP titled “Young climate and environment reporters,” the SG was part of an interactive panel that focused on information and discussion on climate and environmental changes in Pacific Islands countries. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>8th November</td>
<td>We the Pacific, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event co-hosted by PICAN titled “We the Pacific”, the SG presented in the event, that saw the Pacific Climate Warriors presenting their Declaration on Climate Change to remind the world that for the Pacific climate action is about survival. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>8th November</td>
<td>Talanoa on Keeping Fossil Fuels in the Ground, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event co-hosted by PICAN titled “Talanoa on Keeping Fossil Fuels in the Ground”, the SG presented in the event, detailing innovative legal tools such as the Pacific Climate treaty that can advance the Paris Agreement. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>9th November</td>
<td>Climate Justice: Climate Loss and Damage: Who should Pay, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event hosted by PICAN titled “Climate Justice: Climate Loss and Damage: Who should Pay”, the SG presented in the event. The event focused on new research into contribution by the fossil fuel industry to climate change loss and damage.</td>
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<td>9th November</td>
<td>Limiting Temperature rise to 1.5; Implications on Food Security, Displacement and Migration, Bonn</td>
<td>Co-Host/Chair/Speaker</td>
<td>At the event co-hosted by PIDF and International Center Agricultural Research in Dry Areas titled “Limiting Temperature rise to 1.5; Implications on Food Security, Displacement and Migration”, the SG presented in the event. The event focused on need to limit temperature rise to 1.5 Degrees and explore implications on Food security and Climate induced displacement. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>10th November</td>
<td>Advancing Law &amp; Governance Contributions to Climate Action under the Paris Agreement, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event hosted by U.S.P titled “Advancing Law &amp; Governance Contributions to Climate Action under the Paris Agreement”, the SG presented on the elements of High Ambition contained in the Suva Declaration that did not make it into the Paris Agreement and the need for more work to be done in this area.</td>
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<td>11th November</td>
<td>Building a Resilient for Island Nations, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event hosted by The Energy Resource Institute titled “Building a Resilient for Island Nations”, the SG presented in the event. The basis of the program is the deliberations of the India-Pacific Sustainable Development Summit. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>11th November</td>
<td>Bamboo for combatting Climate Change in Island Developing States, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event hosted by The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan titled “Bamboo for combatting Climate Change in Island Developing States”, the SG presented in the event. The basis of the program focused on the potential for bamboo to combat some of the most serious effects of climate change mitigation and adaptation. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>11th November</td>
<td>Reducing Maritime Transport GHG Emissions: Decarbonizing Supply Chain, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event co-hosted by The International Association of Public Transport, International Transport Forum, International Union of Railways and Paris Process on Mobility and Climate the SG presented at the Break-Out session titled “Reducing Maritime Transport GHG Emissions: Decarbonizing Supply Chain”. The basis of the program built on transport-related discussion in COP 21 AND COP 22. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>12th November</td>
<td>Fossil Fuel Supply: Pacific Call and Global Response, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>SG discussed highlights of PIDF’s work on climate change in the Pacific which included the ambitious Suva Declaration and the call for a moratorium on fossil fuels, work on a proposed Pacific Climate Treaty, PIDF Roadmap on Climate Change, and the continued work on advocacy and climate action in the Pacific especially towards the support of the global call to shift away from fossil fuels and move towards renewable energy.</td>
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<td>13th November</td>
<td>Sustaining Fiji’s Great Sea Reef: Building Resilience of Fiji’s Land, People and Oceans, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the event hosted by WWF titled “Sustaining Fiji’s Great Sea Reef: Building Resilience of Fiji’s Land, People and Oceans”, the SG presented outcomes and recommendation from the Pacific blue economy conference that was relevant for the Great Sea Reef Project.</td>
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<td>14th November</td>
<td>Palau signs PIDF Accession instruments, Bonn</td>
<td>Host</td>
<td>Palau signed the instrument of accession to the PIDF making it the organization’s 14th member (12 member state). Following the signing of the accession document, Palau, PIDF and Solar Head of State signed an MOU for Palau to benefit from the installation of solar panels on a yet to be determined government building.</td>
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<td>14th November</td>
<td>Launch of the Pacific Environment and Climate Exchange, Bonn</td>
<td>Host</td>
<td>PIDF held a side event to launch PECX in partnership with UNDP, PIPSO, and USP. The PECX is an innovation hub to support Pacific island countries to manage their resources in a sustainable manner, to build their resilience to the impacts of climate change and assist them in transitioning their economies to a green-blue economy;</td>
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<td>15th November</td>
<td>Loss and Damage &amp; 2030 Agenda, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>At the High Level event hosted by UNDESA in collaboration with President of COP 23, the incoming President of COP 24 and chair of AOISIS, titled “Loss and Damage and 2030 Agenda”, the SG highlighted the need to focus on empowering communities to be green islands – climate smart through better education, health, communication and energy services, better income, water and food security, safer and cleaner environments. For Details Click Here.</td>
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<td>16th November</td>
<td>Attributing Climate Impact to Major Fossil Fuel Companies, Bonn</td>
<td>Speaker</td>
<td>The SG presented at the side event, titled “Attributing Climate Impact to Major Fossil Fuel Companies”, highlighting PIDF’s support of the Climate Damages Tax Declaration as a compensation mechanism for most vulnerable communities affected by climate impacts and disasters. It is in line with the clause of our proposed Pacific Climate Treaty. For Details Click Here.</td>
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