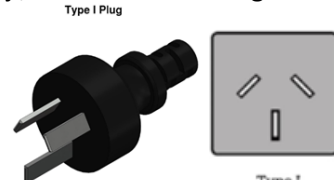


# The 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean Science and Ocean Management

## 11 – 15 September 2023

**Theme:** *An Ocean of Knowledge for our Sea of Islands*

The Pacific Community (SPC) extends a warm welcome to all participants of the 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific Islands Conference on Ocean science and Management. The Conference is led by SPC and collaboratively organized with science organizations, Pacific Island Countries and Territories, civil society, and regional partners.

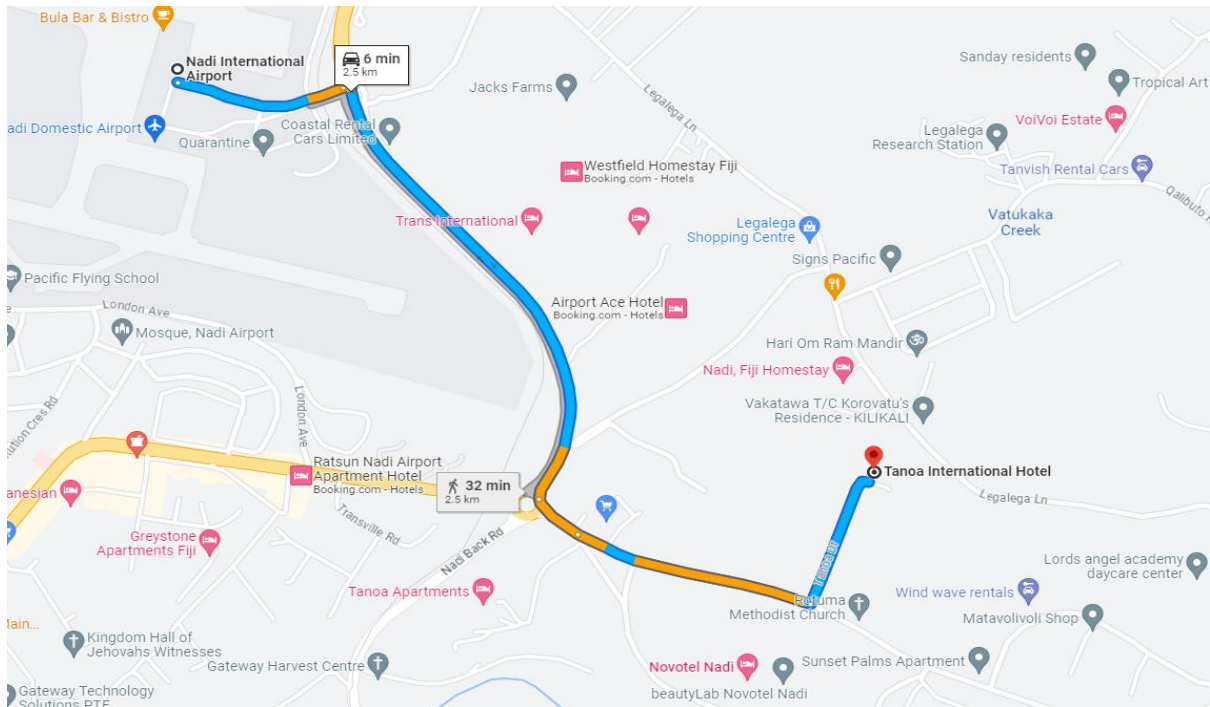
General Information	
<b>Visas</b>	<p>A list of passport holders from countries that <b>do not</b> require visas for entry to Fiji can be found here: <a href="http://immigration.gov.fj">Visa exempted countries (immigration.gov.fj)</a>. Please refer to the website prior to travelling. Passport holders from countries that are <b>not exempt</b> will be required to apply for a Tourist Visa through the Fiji Immigration Department for approval prior to travel.</p> <p>Passport holders from countries that are exempt will be granted a Visitor Visa upon arrival into Fiji by the Fiji Immigration department.</p> <p>Travellers on a Visitor visa must have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A confirmed return ticket to their country of origin AND</li> <li>• Valid passport for no less than six months after the date you intend to leave</li> <li>• Sufficient funds to sustain your duration of stay</li> </ul>
<b>Currency</b>	<p>The local currency in Fiji is the Fijian Dollar, As of 5<sup>th</sup> July 2023, \$1 USD is approximately \$2.19 Fijian Dollars. Like most Pacific Island Countries, cash is the primary medium of payment in Fiji. Do ensure you have enough cash on hand for daily needs in the case that EFTPOS is not readily available. Most hotels accept major credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard, and you can find a Westpac ATM at the Conference venue. Other ATMs are located about 850m from Tanoa Hotel (<i>about 11minutes by foot</i>).</p> <p>Money exchange services are also available on the main street of Namaka (<i>5minutes by vehicle</i>) and Martintar (<i>10minutes by vehicle</i>), with most branches open Monday to Friday.</p> <p>Airport banking services are provided by Westpac, available for all guests arriving by air to make exchanging to Fiji’s currency, quick and easy.</p>
<b>Power supply</b>	<p>In Fiji, power plugs sockets are of Type 1, as is mainly used in Australia, New Zealand, China, and the South Pacific. This socket only works with plug 1. In Fiji, the standard voltage is 240V and the frequency is 50Hz.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  <p style="font-size: small;">Type I Plug</p> </div>
<b>Mobile phone coverage</b>	<p>There are three mobile phone providers in Fiji: Vodaphone, Inkk and Digicel. Mobile phone coverage is pretty good throughout Fiji, with exception to</p>

	<p>some interior regions. For the best network coverage while in Fiji, consider getting a Digicel or Vodaphone SIM card.</p> <p>In both cases, you pay as you use the service. Digicel has the advantage of being able to update your account online or with their app while Vodaphone requires you to find and buy scratch cards to renew your account balance. Both Digicel and Vodaphone scratch cards are available at gas stations, supermarkets and at local convenience stores.</p>
<b>Distance from airport to venue and airport transfer</b>	<p>The Nadi International Airport is 2.5 Km away from the Tanoa International Hotel. Cab/Taxi services are available for transfers to and from the airport and the Conference venue (approx. 6 minutes by vehicle). Starting rates for airport cabs (yellow cabs) are about \$7 Fijian dollars. More information on cab rates can be found here: <a href="#">Airports Fiji Limited - Taxis</a>. For Non-airport taxis, starting rates are from \$2 Fijian Dollars.</p>
<b>Conference Venue</b>	
<b>Conference location</b>	<p>The 1<sup>st</sup> PICOSOM will be held at the Tanoa International Hotel in Nadi. Please refer to the map provided under <b>Annex 1</b> for the Conference location. Each session (under <b>Annex 2</b>) will be held in different spaces either at the Convention Centre, Tanoa Room and Talei Room (all on the same site).</p>
<b>Conference times</b>	<p>Daily sessions will open at 8am for registration and end at 5pm. Please refer to the draft programme under <b>Annex 2</b> for more information.</p>
<b>Conference programme</b>	<p>Please refer to <b>Annex 2</b> for the draft programme for the week. The agenda includes a mix of plenary presentations, parallel sessions, interactive and participatory sessions.</p>
<b>Laptops</b>	<p>Each participant is invited to bring their own laptops. The conference sessions will mainly be paperless. Presentations will be made available at the end of the workshop.</p>
<b>Printing</b>	<p>Printing for A4 documents will be available at the conference venue.</p>
<b>For SPC funded delegates, your sponsorship covers:</b>	
<b>Economy return airfare</b>	<p>SPC will meet the costs of return airfare by the most direct, economical route for officially nominated participants. All funded participants that are attending the meeting from 11<sup>th</sup> September should have received their e-tickets by 15 August 2023.</p> <p>Please contact Virginia Rokoua at <a href="mailto:virginiar@spc.int">virginiar@spc.int</a> and P.Y. Charpentier at <a href="mailto:pierreyvesc@spc.int">pierreyvesc@spc.int</a> immediately if you have not received your e-ticket by this time.</p>
<b>Accommodation in Nadi</b>	<p>Accommodation for all SPC funded participants has been pre-arranged at <a href="#">Tanoa International Hotel</a>. Accommodation is inclusive of breakfast and internet with the option to upgrade to a premium plan.</p>
<b>Accommodation in transit</b>	<p>Participants are responsible for booking and paying their accommodation enroute to Nadi and on their return journey home. SPC will cover the costs of accommodation (where applicable) through per diems.</p>
<b>Per diem/ Daily subsistence allowance</b>	<p>A DSA will be provided to participants whilst in Nadi to cover meals and incidentals. Participants that require overnight stays at ports other than Nadi, will be provided full per diem for that port where applicable.</p> <p>It is anticipated that DSA will be distributed to SPC funded participants on Monday 11 September 2023 at the meeting venue.</p> <p><b>IMPORTANT:</b> All boarding passes from home station to Nadi must be submitted before you collect your Daily Subsistence Allowance (DSA).</p>

	Boarding passes for all return sector travels must be scanned or photographed and emailed to Virginia Rokoua at <a href="mailto:virginiar@spc.int">virginiar@spc.int</a> and P.Y. Charpentier at <a href="mailto:pierreveysc@spc.int">pierreveysc@spc.int</a> upon completion of travel. This is required for the purpose of acquitting funds. If you fail to do so, SPC reserves the right to preclude you from future funded activities.
<b>Airport transfers</b>	SPC will arrange for transfers to and from the airport for Heads of Delegations, Ministers, and Heads of State. Please send details of their arrivals to: Virginia Rokoua on email at <a href="mailto:virginiar@spc.int">virginiar@spc.int</a> and P.Y. Charpentier at <a href="mailto:pierreveysc@spc.int">pierreveysc@spc.int</a> .
<b>For Non-SPC funded delegates</b>	
<b>Alternative Accommodation Options</b>	<p>Due to limited number of rooms available at the Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi, participants can reach out to the following hotels:</p> <p><b>NOVOTEL NADI</b>  Namaka Hill, Nadi, 0000, Fiji  <b>T:</b> +679 672 2000 OR +679 673 6140  <b>E:</b> <a href="mailto:reservations@novotelnadi.com.fj">reservations@novotelnadi.com.fj</a> OR <a href="mailto:events@novotelnadi.com.fj">events@novotelnadi.com.fj</a></p> <p><b>NALAGI HOTEL</b>  Lot 20 Waqadra, Queens Rd, Nadi  <b>T:</b> +679 670 8888 OR +679 797 7015  <b>E:</b> <a href="mailto:sales@nalagi-hotel.com">sales@nalagi-hotel.com</a></p> <p>Other potential accommodations include the Club Fiji Resort, Tokatoka Resort Hotel, Fiji Gateway Hotel and other hotels situated in the Wailoaloa beach area. Please plan your daily commute between your hotel and the Conference Venue.</p>
<b>Transfers to and from the venue</b>	Delegates will need to arrange their own transport to and from their hotels and the conference venue.
<b>Other Information</b>	
<b>Internet</b>	Complementary internet will be available during the conference at the venue (Tanoa International Hotel, Nadi).
<b>Insurance</b>	The Pacific Community does not insure participants while attending meetings or during travel to and from Fiji, and will not be responsible for any expenses arising out of loss, sickness, injury, other disability or loss of life. It is the participants' own responsibility to ensure that their travel is covered by insurance. <b>It is highly recommended that participants take out travel insurance to cover their stay in, and travel to and from Fiji.</b>
<b>Local Transport</b>	Vehicles drive on the left-hand side of the road in Fiji. You can flag down a cab/taxi as means of transportation to and from the meeting venue or request for a taxi service from reception at the meeting venue.

## Annex 1

Map of route from Nadi International Airport to Tanoa International Hotel



## Annex 2

### Draft Programme

Time	Monday, 11 Sept	Tuesday, 12 Sept	Wednesday, 13 Sept	Thursday, 14 Sept	Friday, 15 Sept
8.00	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration	Registration
8.30	Opening & Prayer Keynote speaker	Traditional Ocean Knowledge	Learning session 2	Marine Spatial Planning in the Pacific	Keynote address
10.00	Morning tea				
10.30	Tok Stori on Biodiversity conservation	Tok Stori on Policy implementation and traditional knowledge	Tok Stori on Coral reefs and Ocean Acidification	Tok Stori on Marine Spatial Planning	Tok Stori on Plastics & Marine Pollution
12.30	Lunch				
1.30	Ocean Management Initiatives in the Pacific	Ocean Policy & Management	the UN Ocean Decade	Learning session 3	Climate and Open Ocean Science
	Communicating ocean science	Information portals and databases	Ocean Observations	Coastal Modelling	
3.00	Afternoon tea				
3.30	Pacific Early Career Ocean Professional Network	Learning session 1	Launch of the Pacific Islands Ocean Decade Collaborative Centre	Fisheries in the Pacific	Outcomes Document & closing
	Poster presentations	Information portals and databases workshop	Information portals	Coastal Modelling	
5.00 Evening event	Side events 1		Side events 2	Evening cocktail	