



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

2022/2023

ANNUAL REPORT

Parliamentary Paper No. 24/2026

<https://www.foreignaffairs.gov.fj>



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Vision, Mission and Values

VISION

A Stronger and Prosperous Fiji through Excellence in Foreign Service

MISSION

To advance Fiji's interests through the Effective Formulation and Implementation of its Foreign Policy

VALUES

- **Accountability**
- **Honesty**
- **Commitment**
- **Loyalty**
- **Courtesy**
- **Professionalism**
- **Integrity**
- **Transparency**

About the Report

This Annual Report is aligned to the Financial Regulations within the Fijian Civil Service and details the Ministry of Foreign Affairs performance(s) and commitment(s) in the focus areas during the 2022-2023 financial year.

The reporting period also saw a change in the Government administration with imminent changes in the policy direction after the 2022 General Elections. This resulted in MFA welcoming Fiji's first female Assistant Minister for Foreign Affairs and a new in-house Permanent Secretary over the past 5 years. The new Assistant Minister expressed gratitude and commitment to excellence in Fiji's foreign services, while the Permanent Secretary emphasized the honor of joining the civil service and a dedication to advancing Fiji's global and regional interests. Both leaders pledged to work closely with the Ministry team under the Prime Minister's guidance.



In Summary, the Annual Report includes the following:

- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Organizational Structure;
- The six (6) Divisional Key Performance Indicators (KPI), Outcomes and Outputs; and
- The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Achievements and Results aligned to the Transitional Plan for the 2022/2023 financial year.
- The Annual Report also includes activities that show the shift in priorities given the implications of COVID-19.



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Referral Letter from the Permanent Secretary

Date: 30 March, 2026

Honourable Sakiasi Ditoka

Minister for Foreign Affairs & External Trade
Ministry of Foreign Affairs & External Trade
87 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Nasese
Suva.

Dear Sir,

In accordance with the Financial Management Act of 2004, I hereby submit the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for your information and presentation to Parliament.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raijeli Taga'.

Dr. Raijeli Taga
Permanent Secretary

Permanent Secretary's Foreword

I am pleased to present the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Annual Report for 2022-2023, highlighting Fiji's progress in post-COVID recovery, economic revitalization, and global re-engagement. This year marked milestones such as the reopening of borders and advancing climate resilience through active participation in COP27 and regional frameworks.

Through strengthened partnerships and strategic diplomacy, the Ministry has continued to advocate for Fiji's interests, focusing on sustainable development, regional solidarity, and economic growth. Notable achievements include enhancing digital diplomacy through the launch of rebranded websites to improve service delivery and global engagement, and facilitating high-level visits, such as the official visit by Australia's Prime Minister in March 2023, which reinforced bilateral relations. Additionally, the Ministry supported human capital development by facilitating scholarships for Fijian civil servants to pursue advanced studies abroad.

These achievements reflect our commitment to the "2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent." I extend my gratitude to our team and partners for their dedication and collaboration, enabling Fiji to navigate challenges and seize opportunities for a sustainable and prosperous future.



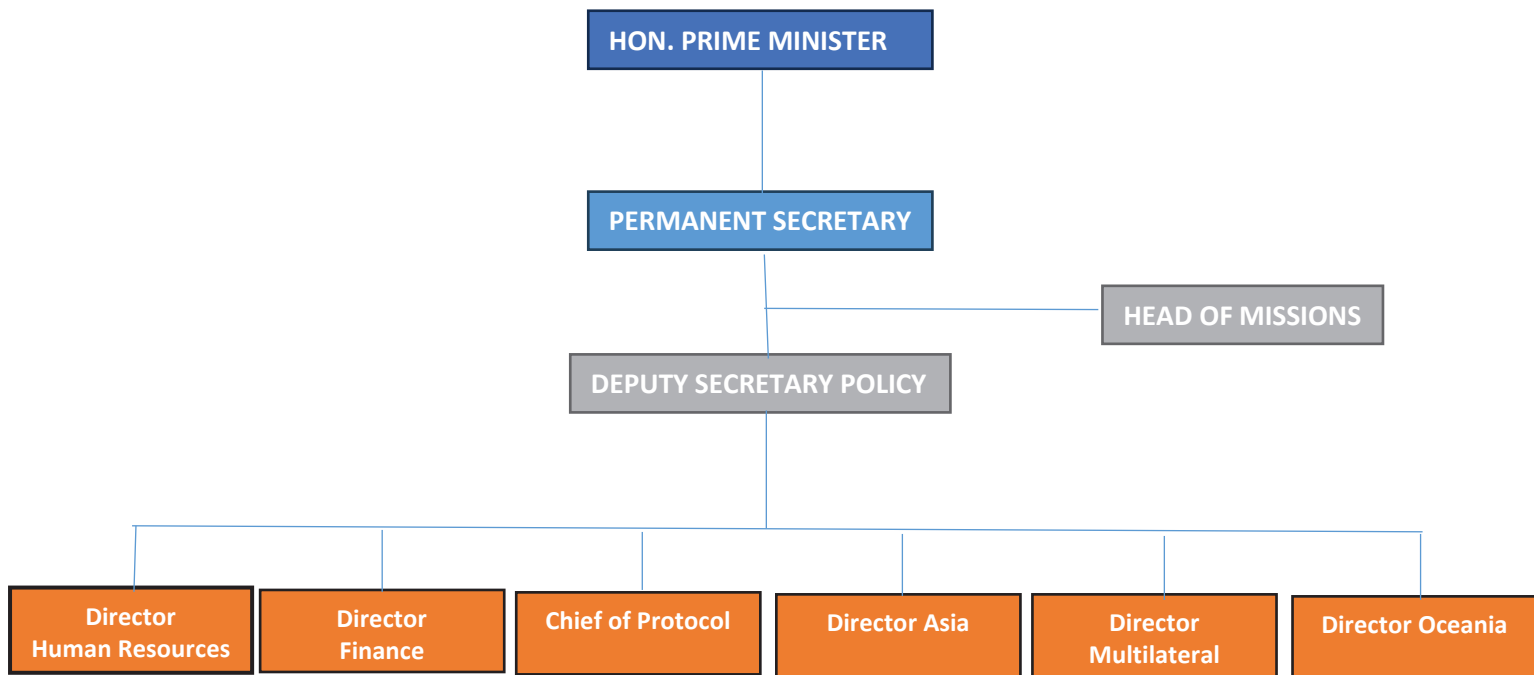
Dr. Raijeli Taga
Permanent Secretary

Abbreviations & Acronyms

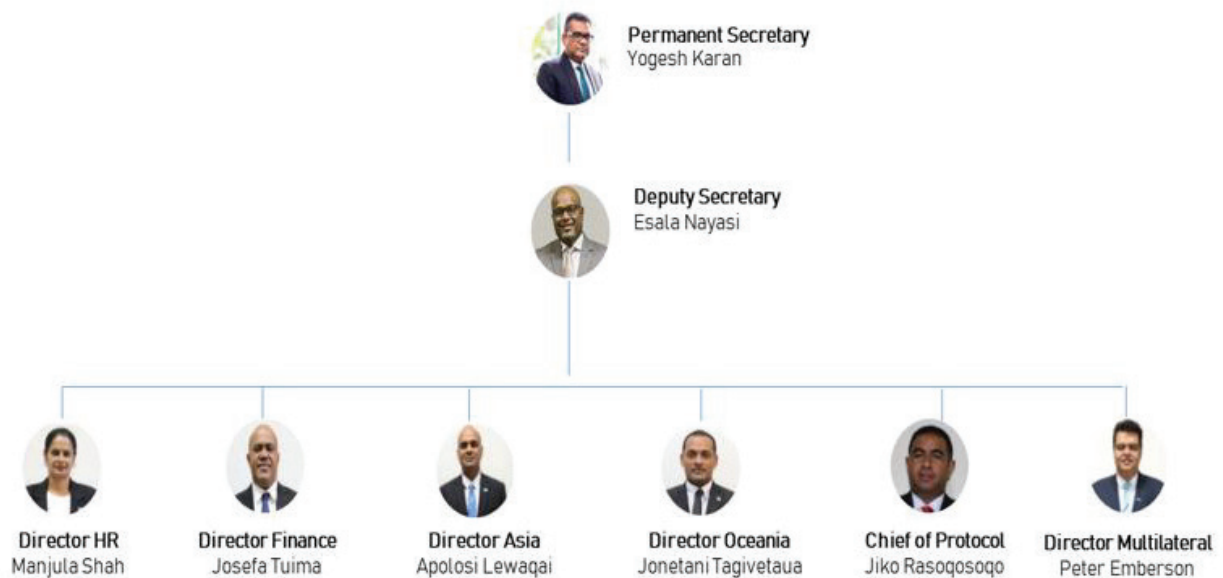
Hon. PM	Honorable Prime Minister
Hon. MFA	Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
NDC	Nationally Determined Contributions
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
PIDF	Pacific Islands Development Forum
MSG	Melanesian Spearhead Group
SPC	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
ESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
WFP	World Food Programme
COP27	27th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
2050 Strategy	2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
GDI	Global Development Initiative

IOM	International Organization for Migration
IMSO	International Mobile Satellite Organization
BBNJ	Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction
CHOGM	Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting
AIS	Archipelagic and Island States Forum

2022/2023 Organisational Structure



Executive Management Team



2022/2023 Achievement Reports

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs presents its 2022-2023 Annual Report, emphasizing Fiji's participation in global initiatives to foster climate resilience, economic recovery, sustainable development, and human rights.

The report highlights six strategic priorities, underscoring Fiji's leadership in advocating for national interests, namely:

- Global Leadership
- Trade and Investment
- Socio-Economic Development
- Public Diplomacy
- Peace and Security
- Human Rights and Democratic Values

1.0 Multilateral Affairs Bureau (Europe, Africa and South America & the Caribbean)

Executive Summary

The Multilateral Affairs Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs made significant strides in 2022-2023, reflecting a strong commitment to global leadership and multilateral partnerships. Key activities focused on climate action, disarmament, and regional solidarity within the Pacific.

Advocacy for PSIDS was also prominent, with efforts to mobilize support for climate resilience initiatives. Partnerships with Germany and 'the Agence Française de' Development were formed to boost climate adaptation, biodiversity, and gender equity.

Collaborations with the IFRC and the IOM addressed disaster preparedness, community relocation, and diaspora engagement to support national development.

The country also hosted the Archipelagic Island States Forum and co-chaired discussions on ocean preservation and climate adaptation. Diplomatic relations were strengthened through high-level meetings with Pacific leaders, reinforcing regional unity under the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy.

In 2022-2023, the country's multilateral agenda advanced, emphasizing climate action, nuclear disarmament, and humanitarian support for a resilient future.

There were also engagements with global leaders following the formation of Fiji's new government and congratulatory diplomatic exchanges which further reinforced diplomatic relations and opened opportunities for strengthened cooperation with global partners

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1 – GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Intended Outcome:

Strengthened global leadership and advocacy by Fiji in advancing international cooperation, climate action, nuclear disarmament and the interests of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in multilateral forums.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Advocacy at the 10th Review Conference of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) calling for nuclear disarmament and reaffirming the Pacific's nuclear-free stance.	Strengthened Fiji's leadership in global nuclear disarmament advocacy and reinforced international awareness of the humanitarian impacts of nuclear testing on Pacific communities while promoting transparency and accountability among nuclear-armed states.
Diplomatic engagement with Denmark and UN partners on development cooperation and gender equality.	Fiji welcomed Her Royal Highness, the Crown Princess of Denmark Mary Elizabeth for her first official visit to its shores

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
	- There were various meetings including courtesy calls to various high-ranking officials. The Denmark delegation was accompanied by officials from UNFPA and Denmark's Minister for Development Cooperation. - There was an emphasis on strengthening relations between Fiji and Denmark on key issues such as climate action and sustainable development, gender equality and health initiatives.
Leadership in global climate diplomacy at COP27 including promotion of blue economy financing, sustainable shipping initiatives and climate investment frameworks.	- Advanced Fiji's climate diplomacy and mobilised international support for climate finance initiatives, sustainable ocean economies and low-carbon shipping initiatives aimed at strengthening resilience and sustainable economic recovery for Small Island Developing States (SIDS). - An announcement was made regarding the launch of the Monash-FNU Pacific Island Countries Climate Change Research Centre (PACT), aimed at developing economic climate solutions. - Key initiatives included the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership to reduce shipping emissions and various climate proposals linked to the country's Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC), which were ready for scaling up.
Fiji-led initiative at the World Health Assembly to establish the Voluntary Health Fund for SIDS.	Enhanced the participation of SIDS in WHO processes and strengthened international support for health capacity-building and technical assistance for vulnerable island states
Treaties / Conventions and Frameworks that Fiji progressed for signing / ratification	<i>BBNJ Treaty (High Seas Treaty)</i> – this historic agreement under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) focuses on the conservation and sustainable use of marine biological diversity in areas beyond national jurisdiction. <i>UN Pacific Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework</i> – multi-country compact (2023–2027) was signed between the UN and 14 Pacific Island Countries,

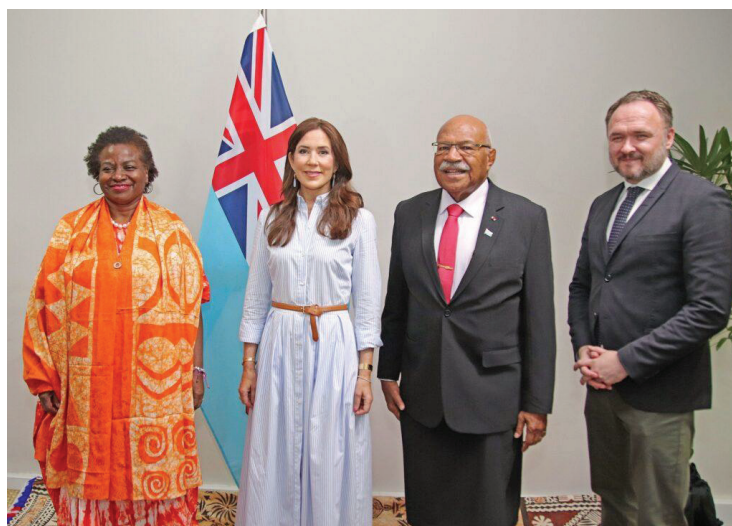
Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
	including Fiji. It outlines shared commitments to sustainable development and regional resilience. • <i>UN-Fiji Country Implementation Plan (2023–2024)</i> – this plan defined specific UN actions and deliverables within Fiji to meet national development needs • <i>International IDEA</i> – establishing Fiji as a regional hub for democratic governance. Discussions on this began in 2022.



Fiji at the 10th Review Conference of the NPT in New York.



Traditional welcome ceremony for Her Royal Highness (HRH) The Crown Princess of Denmark Mary Elizabeth



Hon. Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs with Her Royal Highness (HRH) The Crown Princess of Denmark Mary Elizabeth, the UN Under-Secretary-General and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) Executive Director, Dr. Natalia Kanem and Denmark's Minister for Development Cooperation and Global Climate Policy Mr. Dan Jørgensen.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3 – SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Intended Outcome:

Strengthened international partnerships and cooperation to support Fiji's economic recovery, sustainable development, climate resilience and inclusive growth.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Bilateral development cooperation with Germany, France (AFD), Romania and Chile focusing on climate resilience, sustainable energy, natural resource management and economic recovery.	Strengthened development partnerships and mobilised technical and financial support for Fiji's climate adaptation, economic recovery and sustainable development initiatives.
Engagement with international organizations including FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, ESCAP and IOM on development programmes and policy frameworks.	Enhanced international cooperation supporting agriculture, food security, migration management, gender equality, education, health services and inclusive economic growth.
Dialogue with IOM and diaspora engagement initiatives including national roundtable consultations.	Strengthened frameworks for diaspora engagement and migration governance to support Fiji's national development and post-pandemic recovery.
Participation in major multilateral platforms including the UN General Assembly, G20 Summit and the U.S.–Pacific Island Countries Summit.	Elevated Fiji's international profile while advancing Pacific priorities on climate finance, digital connectivity, food security and sustainable economic growth.
Promotion of green shipping and sustainable maritime development through the Pacific Blue Shipping Partnership at COP27.	Advanced regional initiatives to decarbonise shipping and develop sustainable maritime infrastructure across the Pacific.
Hosting and participation in international initiatives including the Archipelagic Island States (AIS) Forum and Brazil technical mission.	Expanded technical cooperation and partnerships in agriculture, renewable energy, disaster resilience, climate adaptation and regional development initiatives.
Bilateral engagements with the United States, United Kingdom, Israel, Switzerland and other international partners.	Strengthened diplomatic relations supporting trade, investment, security cooperation, climate action partnerships and development assistance.
Collaboration with international organizations and partners including UNDP and ESCAP to support social	Secured development assistance including UNDP support for governance, social cohesion and blue

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
inclusion, governance and economic empowerment programmes.	economy initiatives while strengthening democratic institutions and inclusive development.
International Mobile Satellite Organization (IMSO) pledged support for Fiji	• The new Director General of the IMSO, Ambassador Laurent Parenté, the first Pacific representative in this role, committed to advancing issues crucial to Fiji and the Pacific's development. • In the introductory meeting with Pacific diplomatic officials in the UK, IMSO's active participation in areas like Maritime Satellite Navigation, Radio Communication, and Search and Rescue was emphasized. • Fiji had been a member of IMSO since March 2016, actively engaging in regional programs. IMSO oversaw mobile satellite communication systems recognized by the IMO to enhance satellite communication accessibility, improve safety at sea, and support the shipping industry's development



Fiji at the UN General Assembly in New York.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4 – PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Intended Outcome:

Enhanced Fiji's international visibility and strengthened diplomatic relationships through strategic public diplomacy, regional engagement and international events.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Participation in the 4th Multilateral Naval Exercise Komodo and the International Maritime Security Symposium in Indonesia.	Strengthened Fiji's international defence diplomacy and maritime security cooperation through engagement with 36 participating countries while promoting regional security collaboration.
Co-chairing regional dialogue on the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility with Tuvalu.	Advanced regional collaboration to address climate-induced displacement and developed a Pacific-led framework protecting the rights and wellbeing of affected communities.
Public diplomacy engagements including Europe Day celebrations and partnership events with the European Union.	Strengthened Fiji's visibility and diplomatic engagement with key partners while promoting cooperation on development, humanitarian assistance and disaster response.



4th Multilateral Naval exercise Komodo

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5 – PEACE AND SECURITY

Intended Outcome:

Strengthened Fiji's diplomatic capacity and international partnerships to support peace, security and effective international engagement.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Protocol and diplomatic training delivered in partnership with the Turkish Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Turkish Diplomatic Academy for government officials.	Strengthened the professional capacity of Fijian diplomats and government officials in protocol, diplomacy and international relations while deepening bilateral cooperation with Türkiye.



Participants of the Türkiye Protocol Training for Government Officials

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6 – HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Intended Outcome:

Promoted democratic governance, humanitarian cooperation and human rights through active participation in international institutions and partnerships.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Engagement with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) to support humanitarian response and disaster resilience.	Strengthened humanitarian partnerships and disaster preparedness efforts supporting vulnerable communities affected by climate change in Fiji and the Pacific region.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Fiji's participation in international elections and governance processes in international organisation (like the International Maritime Organization (IMO)).	Promoted inclusive global governance and strengthened Pacific representation in international organisations / institutions.

2.0 Asia Bureau (Asia, Middle East & Russia)

Executive Summary

The Annual Report for Fiji's engagements in Asia, the Middle East, and Russia for the period of 2022 to 2023 provides a comprehensive overview of the strategic initiatives, accomplishments, and challenges encountered by the Fiji government in advancing diplomatic relations and cooperation with key partners in these regions.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Fiji, particularly the Asia, Middle East, and Russia Bureau, faces several challenges in carrying out their duties effectively. Here are some common challenges that such bureaus typically encounter:

- **Diverse cultural and political landscape:** Managing relationships with countries across Asia, the Middle East, and Russia involves navigating complex cultural, political, and historical differences. Understanding and respecting the nuances of each region is crucial for effective diplomacy.
- **Language barriers:** Communication can be a significant challenge when dealing with countries with different languages. Ensuring effective communication, translation, and interpretation services are essential.
- **Political sensitivities and conflicts:** The regions of Asia, the Middle East, and Russia are often characterized by political tensions, conflicts, and sensitivities. Managing diplomatic relations in such environments requires tact, sensitivity, and strategic decision-making.
- **Geopolitical competition:** These regions are often at the center of geopolitical competition among major powers. Fiji's Ministry of Foreign Affairs must navigate these complex relationships to safeguard Fiji's interests and maintain its sovereignty.
- **Trade and economic considerations:** Promoting trade, investment, and economic cooperation with countries in these regions can be challenging due to regulatory barriers, market access issues, and differing economic priorities.
- **Security concerns:** Managing security challenges, such as terrorism, cybersecurity threats, and regional conflicts, is essential for ensuring stability and peace in the regions.
- **Resource constraints:** Limited resources, both in terms of budget and manpower, can pose challenges for effectively managing the diverse responsibilities of the bureau.
- **Consular services:** Providing consular assistance to Fijian citizens in countries across Asia, the Middle East, and Russia can be challenging due to varying legal systems and bureaucratic processes.
- **Climate change and environmental concerns:** Given Fiji's vulnerability to climate change, addressing environmental issues and advocating for sustainable development in these regions may be a priority for the bureau.

- Public diplomacy and image management: Building and maintaining Fiji's positive image in these diverse regions through public diplomacy efforts can be a challenging task that requires strategic communication and engagement.

By addressing these challenges through strategic planning, effective communication, and diplomatic engagement, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Fiji can navigate the complexities of the Asia, Middle East, and Russia regions successfully.

Looking ahead, the Fiji government is committed to further deepening diplomatic ties, expanding economic opportunities, and addressing regional challenges through innovative approaches and strategic partnerships in Asia, the Middle East, and Russia. Embracing digital diplomacy, enhancing people-to-people exchanges, and advancing sustainable development goals will remain key priorities in the upcoming year.

The Annual Report for Fiji's engagements in Asia, the Middle East, and Russia for 2022 to 2023 highlights the government's efforts to advance Fiji's diplomatic interests, promote economic cooperation, and contribute to regional and global stability. Despite challenges, Fiji's proactive engagements, strategic initiatives, and collaborative efforts have positioned the country as a valued partner on the global stage, fostering mutual understanding and driving sustainable development in the regions and beyond.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Intended Outcome

Fiji's leadership role strengthened through active participation in regional and global diplomatic platforms, advancing the **2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent** and fostering strategic partnerships.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Participation in the 5th Korea–Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' Meeting (ROK–PICs FMM), Busan (27 October 2022)	• Reinforced alignment of Pacific priorities with the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent • Reaffirmed Korea's commitment to expanding ODA to Pacific Island countries • Advanced dialogue on resilient economic development and sustainability
Bilateral engagement with Republic of Korea on the margins of ROK–PICs FMM	• Identified cooperation opportunities in labour mobility, trade and investment, tourism, capacity building, and people-to-people exchanges • Consideration of resumption of direct Seoul–Nadi flights to enhance connectivity
Hosting of the Seventh Senior Officials' Meeting of the Archipelagic Island States (AIS) Forum	• Successfully convened representatives from 47 countries in Fiji • Elevated Fiji's leadership in climate and ocean governance • Strengthened strategic partnerships aligned with SDGs 13 and 14
Participation in the inaugural Korea–Pacific Islands Summit, Seoul (29–30 May 2023)	• Strengthened cooperation on climate change, oceans, renewable energy, disaster resilience, trade, tourism,

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
	and people-to-people exchanges • Advanced implementation discussions for the 2050 Strategy and Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy
Participation in the 3rd Forum for India–Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIC-III)	• Secured increased Indian Grant-in-Aid support (USD 200,000 per PIC) • Advanced major health infrastructure cooperation, including a 100-bed Super Cardiology Hospital and Dialysis Centre in Fiji
Participation in the 2nd China–Pacific Island Countries Political Leadership Dialogue	• Reaffirmed Fiji's commitment to inclusive, people-centred development • Sustained high-level political engagement with China on post-COVID recovery and global challenges



Fiji's Ambassador to Japan Mr. Waqabaca met with Deputy Minister for Public Affairs Mr. Choi Youngsam whilst attending the 5th Korea and Pacific Islands Forum Meeting Minister's (ROK-PICs FMM) in Busan



7th Senior Officials Meeting of the Archipelagic Island States Forum

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Intended Outcome

Enhanced bilateral economic partnerships that support sustainable growth, climate resilience, and regional economic integration.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Hosting of the 5th Fiji–India Foreign Office Consultations (18 July 2022)	• Strengthened bilateral cooperation frameworks through new and proposed MOUs • Advanced initiatives such as the Barefoot College programme to empower women and youth • Reinforced India’s engagement with the Pacific through the FIPIC mechanism
Dialogue on climate adaptation, renewable energy, and net-zero pathways	• Positioned Fiji to access innovative solutions and technical cooperation for climate mitigation and sustainable development



5th Foreign Office Consultations with India

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Intended Outcome

Socio-economic resilience strengthened through strategic partnerships, technology transfer, and development cooperation.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Visit by Samsung Electronics President, Mr In Yong Rhee	• Strengthened Fiji–Korea private-sector engagement • Promoted technology and connectivity under the 2050 Strategy • Introduced Samsung’s “Solve for Tomorrow” CSR initiative supporting STEM education, youth, women, and SMEs

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Bilateral engagements at the 17th G20 Summit, Bali	- Secured continued health and COVID-19 recovery assistance - India announced USD 1 million grant for COVID response in Pacific Island countries
Visit by the President of JICA, Dr Akihiko Tanaka	- Reaffirmed cooperation under PALM9 Priority Areas and Japan's KIZUNA Policy - Advanced support for innovation, technology transfer, and school connectivity
Visit by Indonesia's Minister for Foreign Affairs	- Strengthened cooperation in disaster response, defence, policing, agriculture, and education infrastructure - Reinforced Fiji–Indonesia collaboration under the G20 and Blue Pacific framework



17th Session of the Group of 20 (G20) Summit in Bali, Indonesia

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Intended Outcome

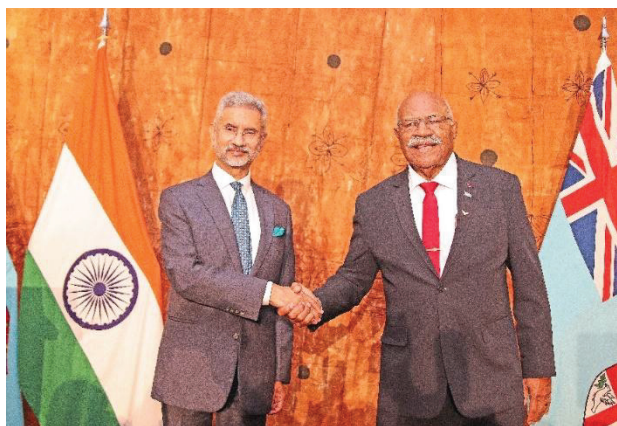
Fiji's international profile enhanced through cultural diplomacy, climate advocacy, and people-to-people engagement.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Hosting of the 12th World Hindi Conference, Nadi (15 February 2023)	- Strengthened Fiji–India people-to-people and cultural ties - Promoted dialogue on language preservation and artificial intelligence
Participation in the 3rd World Climate Industry Expo, Busan	- Highlighted Fiji's leadership in ocean conservation and climate action - Reinforced Fiji's commitments under UNCLOS, Kyoto Protocol, and Paris Agreement
Participation in the Indonesia Arts and Culture Scholarship Programme	- Strengthened cultural understanding and youth engagement - Enhanced people-to-people links with Indonesia

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Observance of Girmit National Day	• Promoted national unity, historical awareness, and multicultural identity • Reinforced healing, rebuilding, and reconciliation narratives



12th World Hindi Conference, Nadi



Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka met with the Minister for External Affairs of the Republic of India, Hon. Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar



3rd World Climate Industry Expo (WCE) in Busan



2023 Girit Day National Celebrations

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: PEACE AND SECURITY

Intended Outcome

Regional security cooperation and mobility strengthened through diplomatic engagement and defence partnerships.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Japan easing border measures for Fijian travellers (11 October 2022)	• Reduced travel costs and barriers for Fijians • Supported tourism recovery and business mobility
Signing of Fiji–India Visa Exemption MOU (February 2023)	• Enhanced diplomatic and official mobility • Strengthened trade, tourism, and investment opportunities
Commemoration of Israel’s 75th Independence Day in Fiji	• Advanced diplomatic relations with Israel • Supported Fiji’s decision to establish an embassy and appoint an Honorary Consul



Israel’s 75th Independence Day Commemorated in Fiji

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 7: PUBLIC RELATIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Intended Outcome

Enhanced diplomatic capacity and professionalism across government institutions.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Fiji–Singapore Diplomatic Protocol Training Programmes	• Trained 77 senior officials from 20 ministries and agencies • Strengthened understanding of diplomatic protocol and international engagement • Reinforced long-standing Fiji–Singapore cooperation



Protocol Trainings organised by Ministry of Foreign Affairs in collaboration with the Singapore Cooperation Programme

3.0 Oceania Bureau (Oceania & Americas)

Executive Summary

The Oceania Bureau within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plays an important role in managing and progressing Fiji's interests across the Oceania region and North Americas region. The Bureau is responsible for research, analysis and implementation of Fiji's strategic foreign policy objectives concerning the Oceania and North Americas region working in close collaboration with relevant line Ministries, Resident Pacific Missions in Fiji as well as Fiji's Missions in Canberra, Wellington, Port Moresby, Washington and the Roving Ambassador's Division. A primary focus of the Bureau is to deepen Fiji's diplomatic ties through high-level engagements, bilateral dialogues and actively pursuing opportunities for strengthening regionalism.

The year 2022-2023 was an important year for the Bureau especially given Fiji's Chairmanship of the Pacific Islands Forum and Fiji's hosting of the special Leaders' Summit in February 2023. The year saw the return of Kiribati to the Pacific Islands Forum following Prime Minister Rabuka's first official visit to Kiribati, solidifying Pacific unity and Fiji's regional leadership. In addition to this, a flurry of high-level engagements with Australia, New Zealand the United States provided opportunities for greater collaboration with partners on Fiji's development priorities.



STRATEGIC PRIORITY 1: GLOBAL LEADERSHIP

Intended Outcome

Pacific regional unity strengthened, and Fiji's leadership role consolidated through high-level diplomacy, strategic partnerships, and effective stewardship of the Pacific Islands Forum.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Participation in the Inaugural U.S.–Pacific Island Country Summit, Washington D.C. (September 2022)	• Reinforced U.S.–Pacific engagement and support for the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent • Advanced dialogue on U.S. Indo-Pacific engagement and Pacific priorities

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
	• Laid groundwork for sustained high-level U.S.–Pacific Leaders’ engagement
Participation in the 12th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL), Hawaii (12–14 September 2022)	• Advanced regional dialogue on climate change, COVID-19 recovery, nuclear legacies, technology, and security • Reaffirmed Fiji’s commitment to regional unity and sustainable economic recovery • Highlighted the role of the Pacific Islands Development Program (PIDP) in U.S.–Pacific cooperation
Presentation of Credentials by Fiji’s High Commissioner to Australia (November 2022)	• Strengthened Fiji–Australia diplomatic relations • Reinforced cooperation under the Vuvale Partnership across health, education, tourism, disaster relief, and private-sector engagement
State Visit to Kiribati, January 2023	• Restored bilateral relations and strengthened sectoral cooperation • Reaffirmed kinship and cultural ties through traditional diplomacy • Kiribati agreed to rejoin the Pacific Islands Forum, resolving a critical regional impasse
Signing and implementation of the Suva Agreement	• Rebuilt trust and unity within the Pacific Islands Forum • Reinforced collective commitment to the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent
Official Visit by the Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea (February 2023)	• Deepened cooperation in trade, public service exchange, defence, policing, and people-to-people links • Reinforced historical bilateral ties
Participation in the Micronesian Presidents’ Summit (Virtual, February 2023)	• Strengthened Pacific solidarity and leadership dialogue • Recognised Micronesian contributions to climate and ocean advocacy • Supported preparations for the 2023 PIF Special Leaders Retreat
Hosting of the Pacific Islands Forum Special Leaders Retreat, Nadi (23–24 February 2023)	• Ensured smooth transition of Forum Chairmanship from Fiji to the Cook Islands • Advanced Forum reforms and operationalisation of the Suva Agreement • Reinforced unity and regional cooperation

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Fiji's tenure as Chair of the Pacific Islands Forum (2021–2023)	• Endorsed the 2050 Strategy for a Blue Pacific Continent • Completed review of regional architecture • Resolved Micronesian withdrawal and secured Kiribati's return • Successfully hosted the first post-COVID PIF Leaders Meeting
Bilateral engagements with Samoa, Solomon Islands, Cook Islands, Marshall Islands, Tonga, Niue, and Tuvalu	• Strengthened bilateral and sub-regional cooperation • Advanced shared advocacy on climate change, oceans, and sustainable development • Reinforced people-to-people and cultural ties
High-level visits by Australia, New Zealand, and the United States (March 2023)	• Reinforced strategic partnerships on climate resilience, security, labour mobility, and development assistance • Strengthened Fiji's engagement with key geopolitical partners
Reopening of Fiji's Diplomatic Mission in Washington, D.C.	• Enhanced Fiji's diplomatic presence in the United States • Strengthened engagement with U.S. Government, USAID, private sector, and diaspora • Expanded cooperation in security, development, and capacity-building
Official visits to Papua New Guinea (May 2023) and New Zealand (June 2023)	• Strengthened bilateral cooperation across defence, trade, public service, sports, and investment • Secured reopening of Fiji's Mission in PNG and visa-on-arrival for Fijians • Enhanced diaspora engagement and investment promotion
Participation in MSG Senior Officials and Foreign Ministers Meetings, Port Vila (June–July 2023)	• Strengthened Melanesian cooperation • Advanced humanitarian capacity-building initiatives and women's participation in decision-making



Pacific Islands Forum Special Leaders Retreat Family Photo



Inaugural U.S.–Pacific Island Country Summit, Washington D.C.



12th Pacific Islands Conference of Leaders (PICL), Hawaii



State Visit to Kiribati, January 2023



Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka with Prime Minister of Cook Islands, Hon. Mark Brown and Secretary General of the Pacific Islands Forum, Mr Henry Puna.



Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka with the President of Kiribati, His Excellency Taneti Maamau, following the official signing of the Suva Agreement by Kiribati.



Prime Minister Hon. Sitiveni Rabuka handed over the chairmanship of the Pacific Islands Forum to the Prime Minister of Cook Islands, Hon Mark Brown.

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 2: TRADE AND INVESTMENT

Intended Outcome

Economic resilience and inclusive growth strengthened through strategic trade partnerships and increased foreign investment.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Fiji–Australia & Australia–Fiji Business Council Joint Forum	• Strengthened business, tourism, and trade cooperation under the Vuvale Partnership • Promoted investment in connectivity, agriculture, energy security, and BPO sector

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Fiji–New Zealand Business Council engagement	• Strengthened trade and investment collaboration under the Duavata Partnership • Reinforced alignment with the 2050 Strategy
U.S. commitment to scale up economic and climate support	• Strengthened cooperation on climate finance and economic resilience • Advanced Fiji–U.S. collaboration on clean economy and sustainable recovery

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 3: SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Intended Outcome

Socio-economic resilience enhanced through education, climate action, development cooperation, and innovation.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Engagement with University of New South Wales (UNSW)	• Strengthened research and development partnerships • Advanced cooperation on climate resilience, food security, and disaster preparedness
Renewed Fiji–United States development cooperation	• Supported climate action, tourism recovery, and economic development • Advanced establishment of a USAID Office in Suva
Fiji–New Caledonia Joint Declaration of Cooperation	• Strengthened collaboration in tourism, agriculture, fisheries, and sustainable development
Participation in the Pacific Ministerial Dialogue on Just Energy Transition	• Reaffirmed Fiji’s commitment to renewable energy and net-zero emissions by 2050
Australia’s AUD 10 million assistance for school reconstruction	• Strengthened education infrastructure resilience post-cyclone • Reinforced cooperation on women’s empowerment and community development
New Zealand Pacific Mission to Fiji	• Secured NZD 10 million in budget support • Established a 10-year partnership with the University of the South Pacific • Strengthened climate governance and institutional capacity
Engagements with Kiribati and Samoa	• Strengthened bilateral development cooperation • Advanced collective Pacific priorities under the 2050 Strategy



Fiji and New Caledonia Sign Joint Declaration on Cooperation

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 4: PUBLIC DIPLOMACY

Intended Outcome

Fiji's image as a compassionate and responsible regional partner reinforced.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Condolence and support to New Zealand following Auckland floods (January 2023)	• Demonstrated Fiji's solidarity and readiness to assist Pacific neighbours during crises

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 5: PEACE AND SECURITY

Intended Outcome

Regional peace, security, and humanitarian response capabilities strengthened.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Fijian diplomat awarded by the Australian War College	• Enhanced Fiji's reputation in defence and strategic studies • Strengthened people-to-people and institutional defence links
Annual Fiji–Australia Defence Ministers' Meeting	• Strengthened defence cooperation and use of Blackrock Camp for HADR and peacekeeping
Visit by U.S. Indo-Pacific Commander	• Reinforced Fiji–U.S. cooperation in defence, security, climate, and oceans
Fiji–New Zealand defence cooperation	• Strengthened humanitarian assistance and disaster response collaboration
Fiji's humanitarian deployment to Vanuatu	• Delivered timely regional assistance following cyclones and earthquake

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Visit by Vanuatu National Security Taskforce	• Strengthened security cooperation and disaster recovery planning

STRATEGIC PRIORITY 6: HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRATIC VALUES

Intended Outcome

Democratic governance, climate justice, and human security advanced through regional and bilateral cooperation.

Key Outputs / Activities	Results Achieved
Fiji–New Zealand engagement on climate resilience (June 2023)	• Secured NZD 11 million in climate support • Strengthened cooperation on community relocation and climate financing • Reinforced alignment with regional human security priorities

4.0 Protocol & Consular Services Division

Executive Summary

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Fiji through the Protocol and Consular Division is responsible for the administration of all provisions of the Vienna Conventions on Diplomatic and Consular Relations to ensure that all Diplomatic Missions, Consulates, and their members within the country function efficiently and in compliance with the relevant legislations.

The Division manages and is responsible for the appointment of Fiji diplomatic and consular representatives overseas, as well as Fiji representatives to Inter-Governmental Organizations. It works closely with the Office of the President in facilitations of all requests for Agrément for all resident Heads of Missions and Non-Resident Missions based in Canberra, Australia and Wellington, New Zealand to present credentials to the President of the Republic of Fiji. In the same regard, it also is responsible for and executes requests for Agrément for Fiji's Heads of Missions to our overseas missions, including having the Heads of Missions commissioned as well to take up posting.

Additionally, the Division is responsible for planning conferences and meetings hosted by the Ministry, as well as executing official international visits at the Ministerial level. Most importantly, it represents Fiji on all Inter-Agency Committees to plan and execute State, Official, and Working visits to Fiji, along with State and Official funerals and other ceremonies for the State.

It manages the process of acquiring visas for officials traveling on government business and provides protocol guidance and assistance to Fiji's Missions, Ministries, Departments, and Agencies.

The Division is responsible for and handles the notification process for courtesy calls, facilitates all high-level officials that travelled in an official capacity, as well as processed requests for the landing of state aircraft and the entry of vessels in Fiji's waters for research, maintenance, replenish of supplies, training, or for humanitarian purposes.

It continues to plan and coordinate the execution of incoming correspondence to pertinent Departments and other Ministries, and processes requests for the loan of flags of foreign countries providing guidance on all flag use and display.

The primary roles remain to be the timely provision of Protocol and Consular Services to all Fiji missions abroad, all resident and non- resident diplomatic missions and Honorary Consuls accredited to Fiji which was classified under the following:

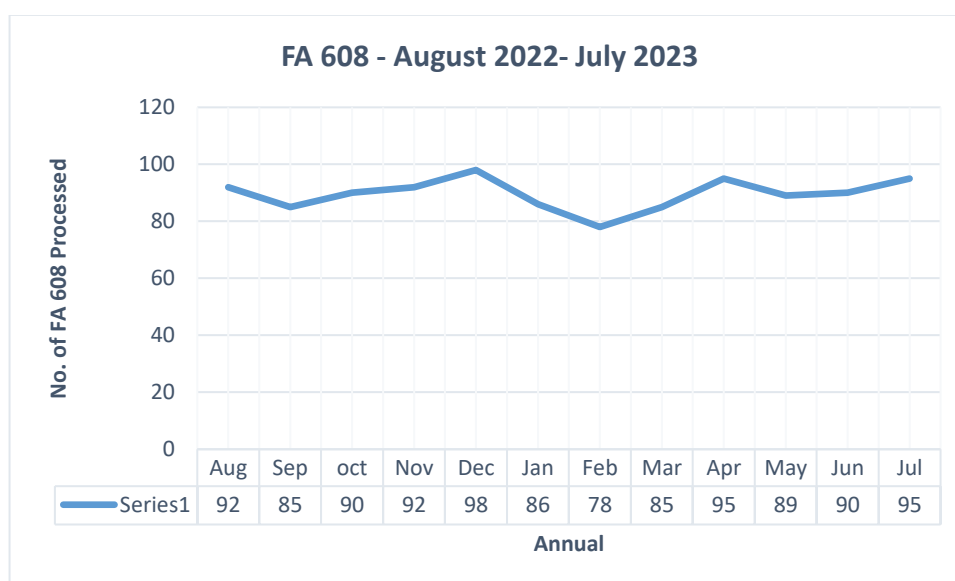
- 11 Fiji Missions abroad
- 22 Diplomatic Missions in Suva
- 20 Regional & International Organizations in Suva; and
- 18 Honorary Consuls based in Suva.

The Division is also responsible and facilitates repatriation requests of Fiji nationals abroad through the respective missions as and when it is needed.

ADMINISTERING OF CONSULAR PRIVILEGES & IMMUNITIES



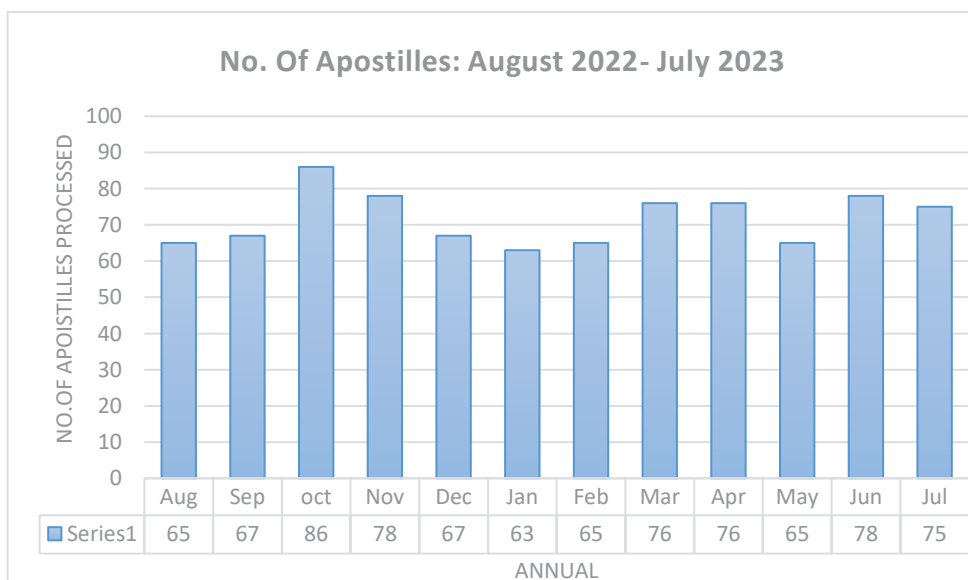
This graph indicates the relative increase in travel and arrival into Fiji by Diplomats and the new appointments made for posting from headquarters. It clearly shows a boost to economic activity upon the commencement of official duties after general elections.



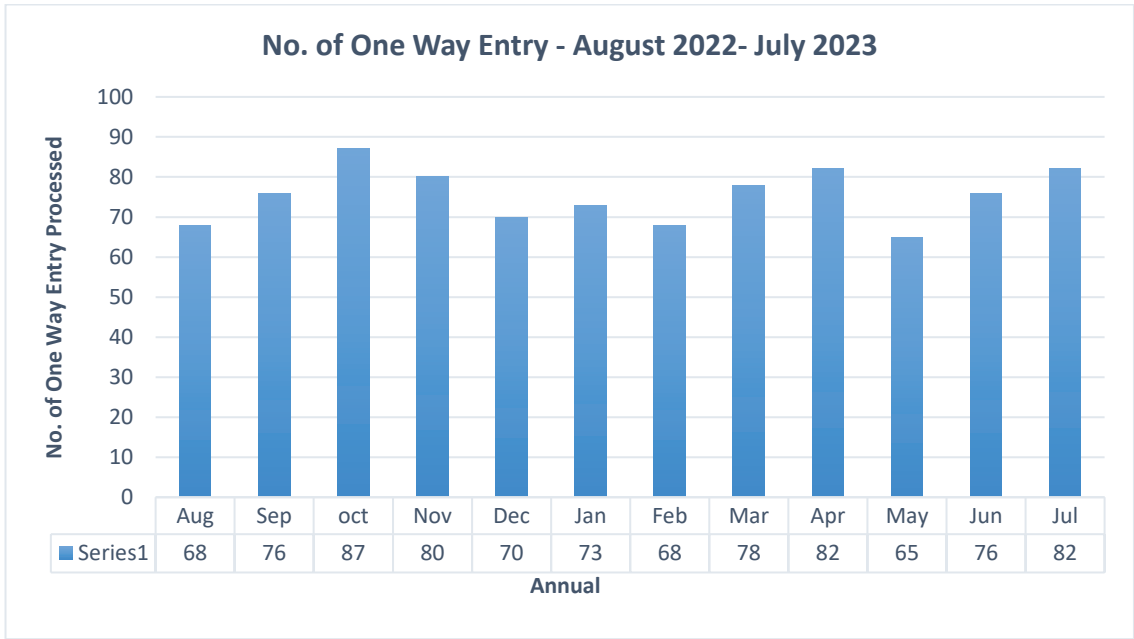
The request for Duty Free purchases through the FA 608 forms by the Diplomatic corps is a privilege for the Diplomatic Community. Missions have a certain quota for each quarter and are guided by the Division in terms of their requests. The Division continues to thoroughly assess and scrutinize all duty-free requests in close collaboration with the Fiji Customs and Revenue Services. For this period there has been a relative increase as the respective missions utilized their quota to better carry out their responsibilities. This privilege is also used by international organisations and development partners on their requests for medical supplies, equipment and tools for development or aid purposes.



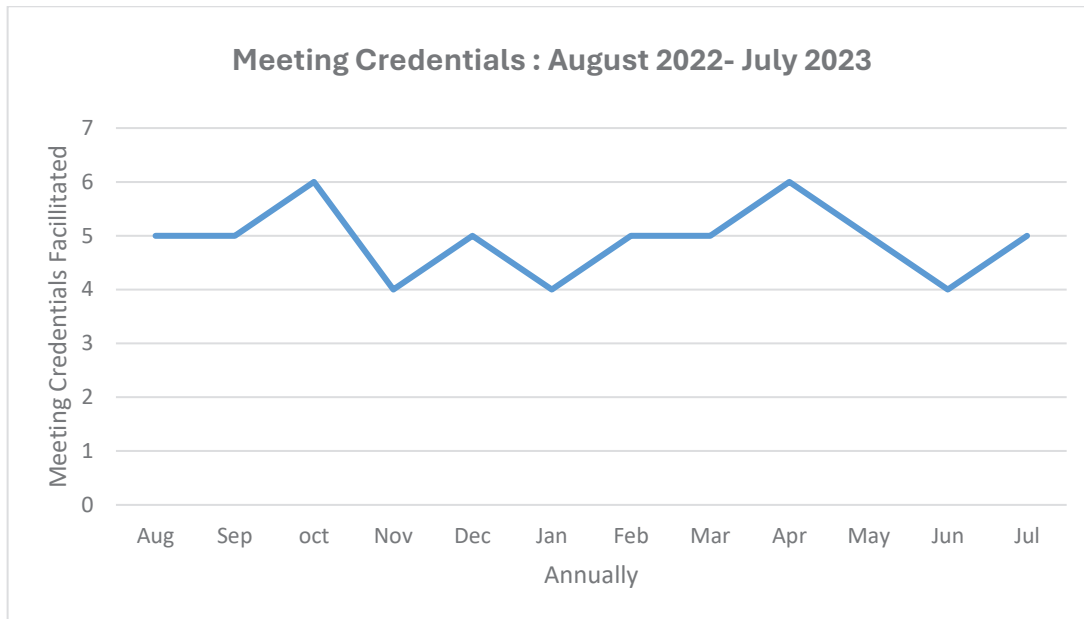
ID cards are issued as part of the establishment of a mission or upon the arrival of new diplomats into the country. It is the responsibility of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Protocol Division to issue all diplomats an updated ID card that includes their designation and the Schedule that they are entitled as per the Vienna Convention. The request for ID Cards is considered residence permits for the respective holders and is a form of identification. The card is presented upon request whilst diplomats are in country and must be returned to MFA by the embassy upon final departure from the Republic of Fiji. Members of Diplomatic, Consular Missions, and Office of International Organizations are required to apply for an ID with MOFA no more than two weeks after they have taken up their posts in the country. For this period, there has been a relative increase of diplomats arriving and taking up post on a monthly basis which is reflected in the graph.



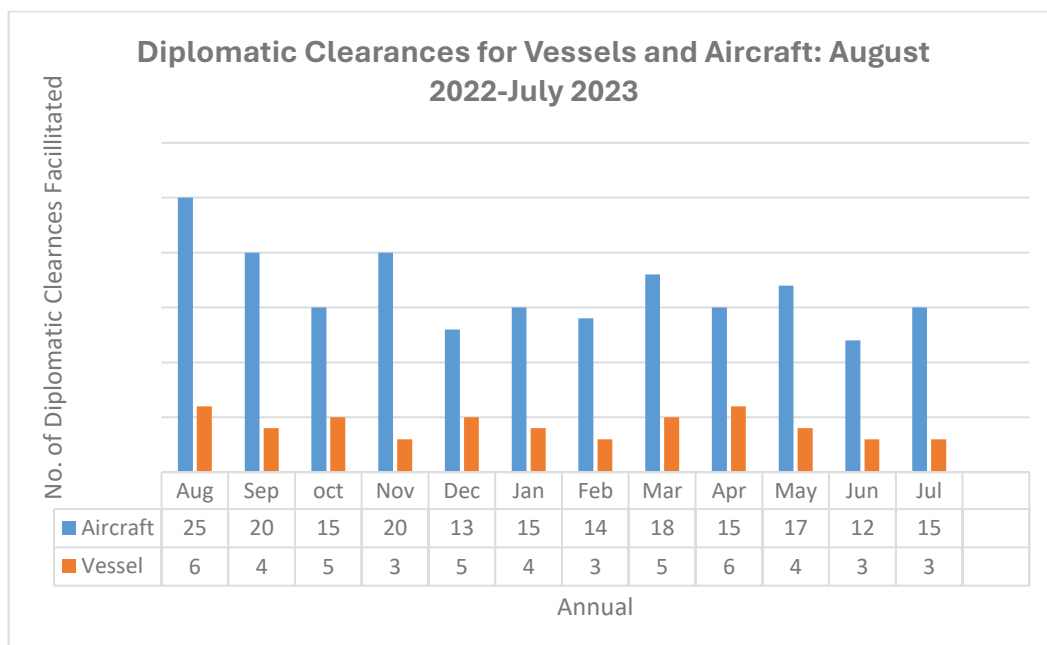
An apostille is a certificate that authenticates a public document (like a birth certificate, diploma, or court order) aligned to the Hague Apostille Convention. It is used in foreign countries on international document exchange by verifying the signature, seal, or stamp of the official who issued it. It's a single certification, that confirms the document's origin, not its content's truthfulness, issued by a designated authority in the document's country. The process of legalizing and authenticating public documents through an apostille is a function that only MOFA is mandated by law to provide. The Division was responsible for the issuance of apostille stamps both to local and overseas applications provided the document originates from institutions and organisations in Fiji. As reflected in the graph, there continued to be an increase in Fiji Nationals requiring their documents to be apostilled which is an indication of the movement of Fiji Nationals abroad as well for studies, migrating or for business.



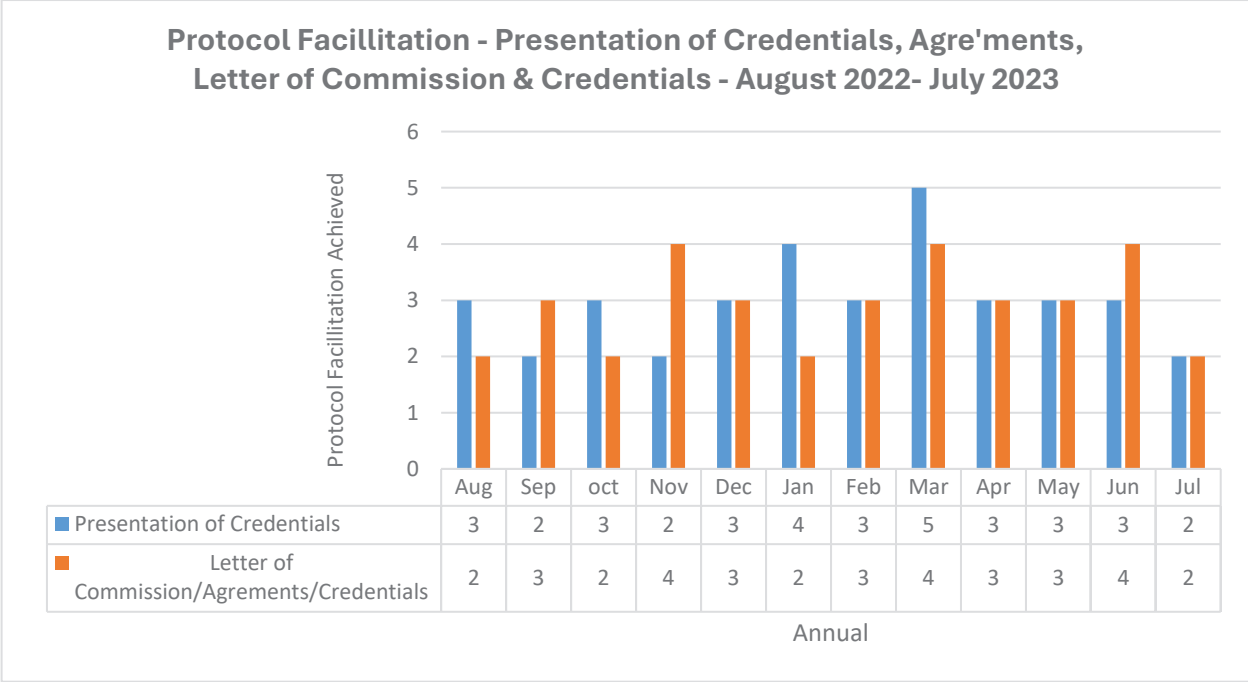
One-way entry permit is issued to Diplomats who are arriving to undertake paid employment in Fiji. These are fixed term positions that require the prior approval of the Ministry. At the end of their tenure, the diplomat organizes his exit and the permit together with the appropriate visa is rescinded upon departure. The graph highlights the number of one-way entries that had been processed for each month. The graph clearly shows the consistent increase in the issue of one-way entries indicating confidence in doing business by our international and regional counterparts.



The Preparation of Meeting credentials is another function that is entrusted to the Protocol Division. The meeting credential continue to be prepared, endorsed by the Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs and conveyed to the meeting organisers. This endorsement provides the delegation with the mandate to negotiate, decide and endorse issues on behalf of government during these important meetings abroad. The consistent increase highlights our commitment and representation to these important meetings and in promoting Fiji's interests.



This Diplomatic clearance ensured that the foreign aircraft or marine vessel can pass through foreign airspace or territorial waters without encountering diplomatic or political obstacles. The process of obtaining diplomatic clearance involved communication and coordination with the diplomatic missions or embassies of the countries that are requesting for this privilege. The Protocol Division has to consult its stakeholders, namely the Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji (MSAF), Ministry of Defence, Fiji Navy, Fiji Ports, Republic of Fiji Military Forces and Ministry of Lands and Mineral Resources. The Division facilitates and issues the diplomatic clearance after due diligence is attended to. The graph shows the number of clearances provided in a month. There are more aircraft clearances request received on a daily basis compared to vessels as they need to have requested for these 6 months prior to arrival.



A significant formal and substantive ceremony for the Head of State of a nation is acknowledging a new Ambassador/High Commissioner with credentials, Approving Agrément requests and Commissioning Fiji’s appointed Heads of Missions to our respective missions abroad. It is only after this ceremony that a new Head of Mission is acknowledged as the official representative of their country. The ceremony fully validates the authority of the new Head of Mission and affirms recognition of the country and government that was represented. As a result, the presentation of credentials by Head of Mission is the same as the formation, maintaining mutual interest, and strengthening of a diplomatic alliance between two nations. The protocol surrounding the ceremony has great symbolic and practical significance. The graph shows the number of these important ceremonies that were facilitated in a month.

5.0 Human Resources Division

The Human Resources Division is an internal support service managing resources for the achievement of the Ministry's strategies, ensuring compliance with several governance obligations and improving corporate policies, procedures and outcomes.

The Ministry appreciates the impact that human resource management policies have on the productivity and professionalism of its workforce and continuous policy development and review in line with environmental and institutional changes as well as best practices.

Furthermore, the Ministry also undertook the operationalization of the Fijian Civil Service Customer Service Guideline, which outlines the overarching process standards and behaviour required from all staff (inclusive of salaried officers, wage earners, temporary, project staff, volunteers and those undergoing work attachment) when dealing with both internal and external customers.

STAFF ESTABLISHMENT

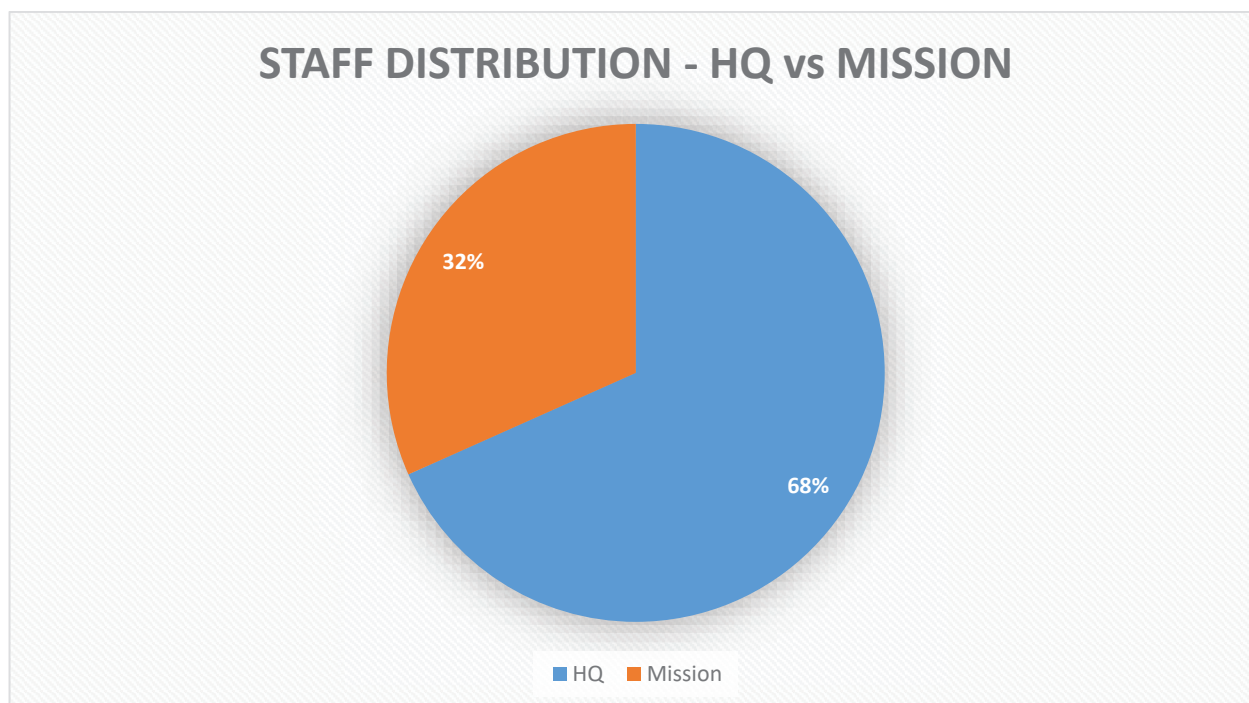
Workforce Strength

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has an approved establishment of 126 of which 100 positions are substantively filled and 26 positions (Missions and HQ) vacant. Tabled below are details of positions, including gender distribution for both Head Quarters and Missions.

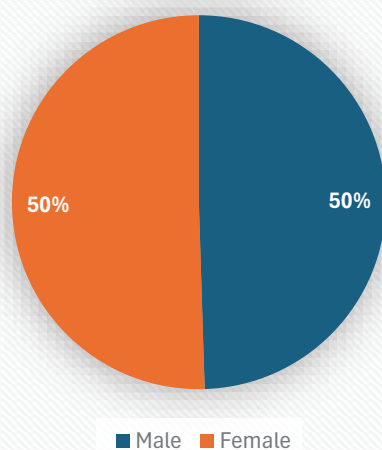
Headquarters/Mission Establishment	Gender		Vacant	Filled	Grand Total
	Female	Male			
Headquarters Establishment					
Executive Support Unit	5	3	3	8	11
Media & Communication Unit	1	2	1	3	4
Policy Research & Development Division	0	1	1	1	2
Protocol & Consular Division	4	5	2	9	11
Human Resources Division	9	2	1	11	12
Finance Division	6	4	1	10	11
Multilateral Division	7	1	3	8	11
Asia Division	3	3	5	6	11
Oceania Division	3	0	2	3	5
Roving Ambassador	1	1	1	2	3
Government Wage Earners	1	7	3	10	13
Total in HQ	40	29	23	71	94
Missions Establishment					
Abu Dhabi Mission	0	3	0	3	3
Beijing Mission	1	2	0	3	3
Canberra	2	1	0	3	3
Geneva	1	3	0	4	4
Jakarta	1	2	0	3	3
London	2	1	0	3	3

Headquarters/Mission Establishment	Gender		Vacant	Filled	Grand Total
	Female	Male			
New Delhi	0	3	0	3	3
New York	1	1	1	2	3
Tokyo	1	1	1	2	3
Washington	1	2	1	2	3
Wellington	1	2	0	3	3
Total in Mission	11	21	3	31	34
GRAND TOTAL	51	50	26	100	126

Of the 126 established positions, the staff distribution between Headquarters and overseas Missions is illustrated in the graph below. During the reporting year, 68 % of staff were based at Headquarters, while 32 per cent were deployed to Missions. This distribution reflects the Ministry's operational structure and staffing requirements in support of both domestic coordination and overseas representation.

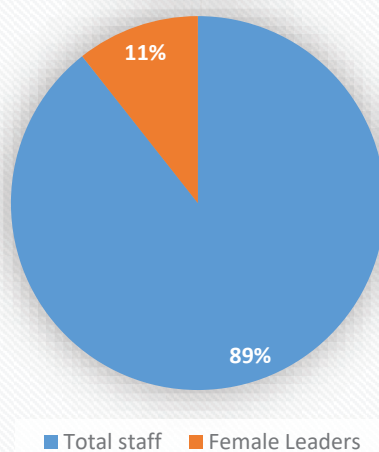


GENDER REPRESENTATION FY 22 - 23



In line with the Civil Service commitment to gender equality and inclusive representation, the Ministry recorded an equal gender distribution during the reporting year, with women and men each accounting for 50 per cent of the workforce. This balance reflects the Ministry's ongoing efforts to promote fairness, equity, and equal opportunity in recruitment, placement, and career development across all levels of the organisation. Out of its total establishment, 21% of the positions remained vacant in the 2022-2023 financial year.

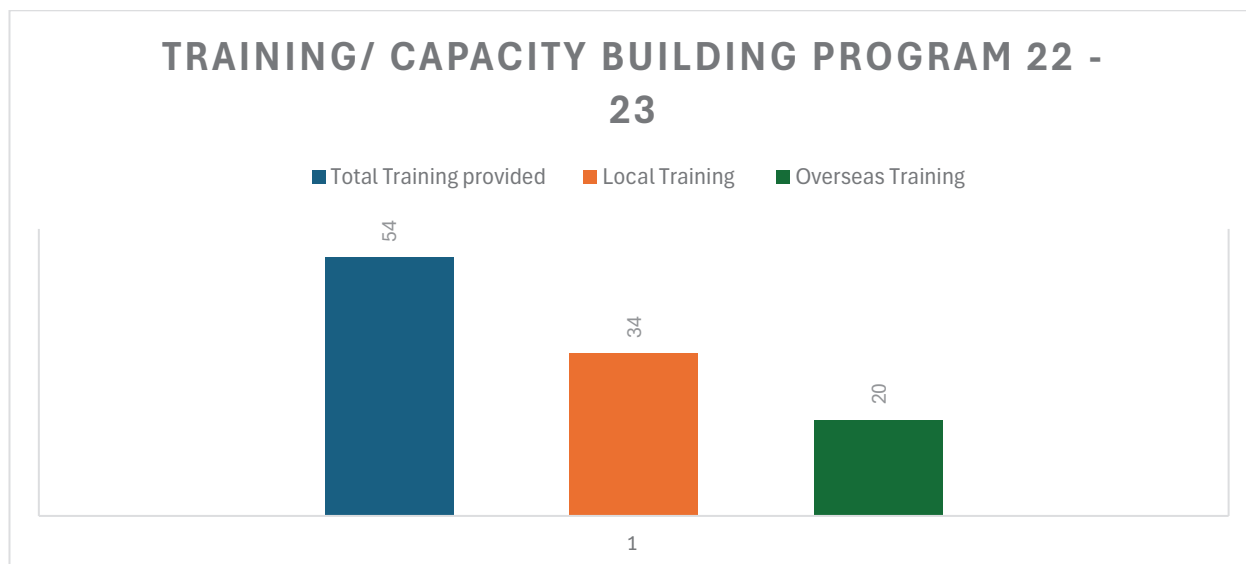
WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP POSITION



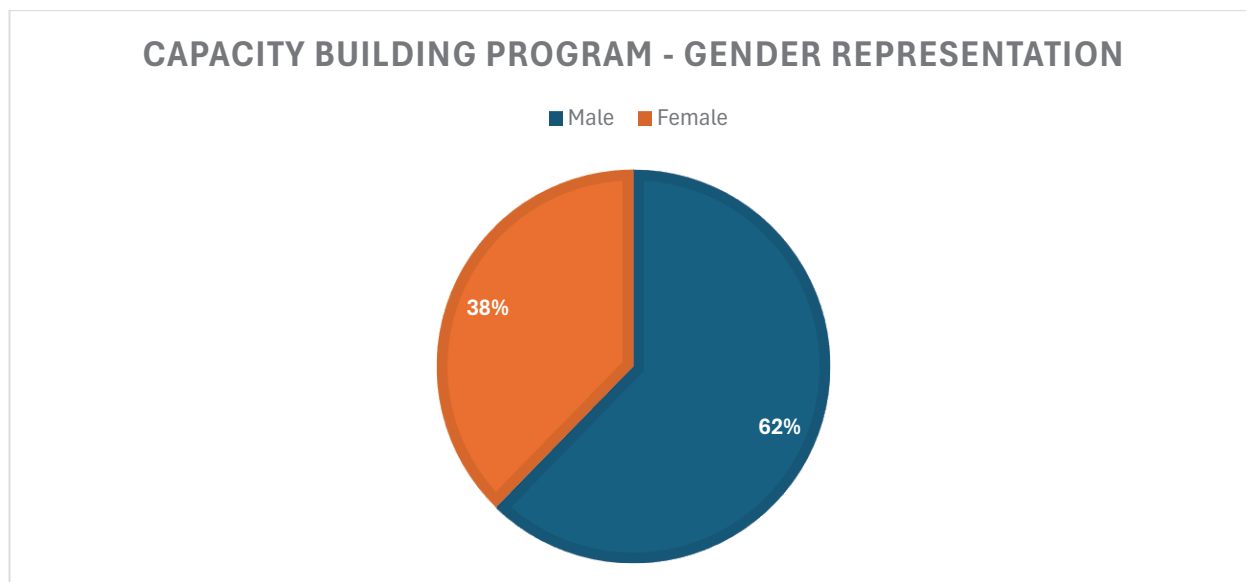
During the reporting year, women accounted for 11% of leadership positions at the Manager and Director levels. This represents a 3 per cent increase compared to the 2021–2022 financial year, reflecting gradual progress in strengthening women's representation in leadership roles within the Ministry.

Capacity Building

During the 2022–2023 period, a total of 54 training programmes were delivered to support staff capacity building. Of these, 34 were conducted locally, reflecting a strong focus on in-country skills development and cost-effective training delivery. A further 20 programmes were undertaken overseas, aimed at specialised training and international exposure.



Overall, the data indicates a balanced approach to capacity building, with emphasis on maximising local training opportunities while continuing to invest in targeted overseas training to strengthen institutional capability.

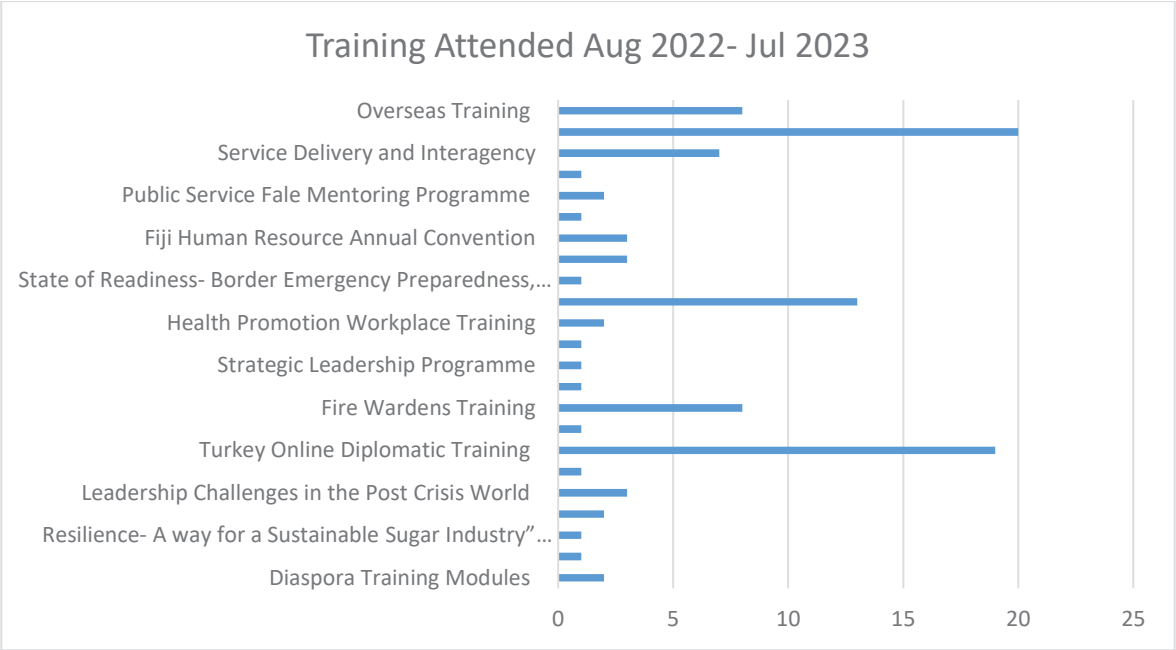


The Capacity Building Programme demonstrates a gender distribution of **62% male** and **38% female** participation. While male officers represented the majority of participants during the reporting period,

female participation remains significant, reflecting ongoing efforts to support inclusive access to training opportunities.

The Ministry continues to recognise the importance of gender balance in capacity building and will seek to further strengthen female participation through targeted nomination and development initiatives in future programmes.

The above bar graph below depicts the number of staff that attended the trainings between 01 August, 2022 to 31 July, 2023.



Between August 2022 and July 2023, officers participated in a wide range of training programmes covering leadership, service delivery, health and safety, emergency preparedness, and diplomatic capacity building.

The highest levels of participation were recorded in Turkey Online Diplomatic Training, Overseas Training, and Health Promotion Workplace Training, reflecting the Ministry's continued investment in diplomatic capability, international exposure, and staff wellbeing. Significant participation was also noted in Service Delivery and Inter-Agency training and Fire Wardens Training, supporting operational effectiveness and workplace safety.

Participation in specialised and targeted programmes including Strategic Leadership Programme, Public Service Female Mentoring Programme, Diaspora Training Modules, and State of Readiness and Border Emergency Preparedness demonstrates the Ministry's commitment to leadership development, gender empowerment, resilience, and national preparedness.

Overall, the training profile reflects a balanced approach to capacity building, addressing both strategic leadership requirements and core operational competencies in support of effective service delivery.

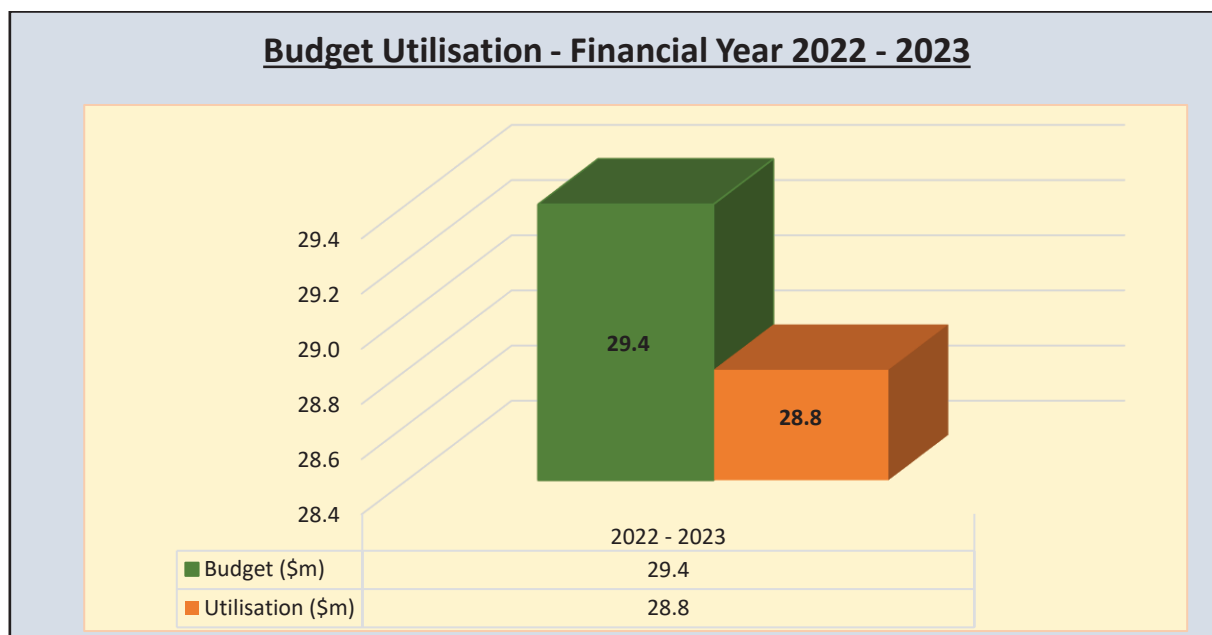
6.0 Finance Division

Executive Summary

The Division provided prudent management of financial resources and guarantees that all expenditures and revenue collections were in compliance with the relevant provisions outlined under the Finance Instructions, Finance Manual (2019), and the Fiji Overseas Service Regulations (FOSR). The Division also ensured the efficient and effective updating of all transactions into the Financial Management Information System (FMIS) for Government.

Ministry of Foreign Affairs budget overview for financial year 2022-2023.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs had received a total budget of \$29.9 million for the 2022-2023 financial year compared to \$28.3 million for the 2021-2022 financial year. Total budget utilization for the year ended 31st July 2023 was at 98%. The Column Charts below illustrates the financial expenditure summary for 2022/2023 fiscal year:



Approximately 71% of the Ministry's budget was allocated towards its 'off-shore' operations through the Overseas Missions and the remaining 29% is for its on-shore operation or Headquarters.

Asset Management

Annual Board of Survey (BOS)

The BOS for the financial year 2022-2023 was conducted at Headquarters and in the Fiji Diplomatic Missions abroad. The following locations were surveyed:

1. Abu Dhabi
2. Beijing
3. Canberra
4. Geneva
5. Jakarta
6. London
7. New Delhi
8. New York
9. Tokyo
10. Wellington
11. Headquarters-Suva and Nadi office.

The 2022-2023 BOS report was approved and received from the Ministry of Finance within its financial year. The items written off had a total value of \$944,119.

Vehicle and Transport

A total of 11 vehicles were engaged to facilitate Ministry of Foreign Affairs during the 2022-2023 financial year. A vehicle was designated for the Permanent Secretary and the remaining ten (10) were used for Ministry staff and VIP operation(s).

The total fuel consumption for 2022-2023 financial year was \$57,392 and repair and maintenance cost was \$25,832 which totals to \$83,224.

Mission: Estimated Value of Assets (F\$)

A major challenge for the Ministry was the management of its off-shore (Overseas Missions) component of the budget, which accounted for over 71% of the Ministry's budget. Ensuring better and efficient financial practices and overall compliance remains a challenge in our effort to achieve prudent management of all financial resources allocated to the Ministry.

Way Forward

Better coordination between Headquarters and each of our diplomatic Missions abroad was critical for the effective management of the Ministry's financial resources. The Ministry, through its Finance team was exploring options that facilitated the adoption of electronic platforms as a practical means of doing business. Apart from encouraging the use of electronic platforms, strengthening of the Ministry's internal audit mechanism was critical in supporting the Ministry's effort of an improved compliance and adherence to financial policies and regulations.

Financial Statement for the Year Ended 31 July 2023

OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR GENERAL

Promoting Public Sector Accountability and Sustainability through our Audits



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Suva, Fiji

Telephone: (679) 8921519
E-mail: info@auditorgeneral.gov.fj
Website: www.oag.gov.fj



File: 347

BF

14 August 2024

The Honourable Sitiveni Ligamamada Rabuka
Prime Minister & Minister for Foreign Affairs, Climate Change, Environment, Civil Service,
Information, Public Enterprises and Veteran Affairs
New Wing Government Buildings
SUVA

Dear Honourable Sitiveni Rabuka

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS - 31 JULY 2023

The audited financial statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for the year ended 31 July 2023 together with my audit report on them are enclosed.

Particulars of the errors and omission arising from the audit have been forwarded to the Management of the Ministry for necessary actions.

Yours sincerely

Finau Seru Nagera
AUDITOR-GENERAL

cc: Lesikimacuata Korovavala, Permanent Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Suva

Encl.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AGENCY FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

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Website: www.oag.gov.fj



INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements

Opinion

I have audited the financial statements of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (*the Ministry*) which comprises the Statement of Receipts and Expenditure, Appropriation Statement, Statement of Losses for the financial year ended 31 July 2023, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In my opinion, the accompanying financial statements of the Ministry are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010.

Basis for Opinion

I have conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (ISA). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements* section of my report. I am independent of the Ministry in accordance with the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants* (IESBA Code) together with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements in Fiji and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

Other Matters

- Unreconciled variances amounting to \$1,560,170 exist between the FMIS general ledger balance for Overseas Cash of \$3,622,437 and the Overseas Missions' bank reconciliation statements cumulative balance of \$2,062,267.
- Internal controls were generally found to be weak for the Wellington Mission with respect to the non-submission of journal vouchers and supporting documentation and receipts for certain months were not provided for audit. These internal control weaknesses, if not addressed promptly, may result in material misstatement and possible financial losses in the future.
- Bank audit certificates for the Canberra, London, Wellington, Beijing, New York and Jakarta Missions were not provided for audit verification.
- Operating trust amounting to \$1,030,046 or 64% of the total operating trust have been carried forward from the previous year without any movement.

Other Information

The Management are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the annual report but does not include the financial statements and the auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the other information identified above and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements, or my knowledge obtained during the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based upon the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

Responsibilities of the Management and Those Charged with Governance for Financial Statements

The Management are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and Finance Instructions 2010, and for such internal control as the Management determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Ministry's financial reporting process.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

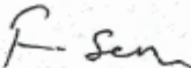
My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISA will always detect a material misstatement when it exists.

Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISA, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Ministry's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the management of Ministry.

I communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.


Finau Seru Nagera
AUDITOR-GENERAL



Suva, Fiji
14 August 2024

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MANAGEMENT CERTIFICATE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

We certify that these financial statements:

- (a) fairly reflect the financial operations and performance of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for year ending 31 July 2023; and
- (b) have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Financial Management Act, the Finance Instructions (2010) and the Finance (Amendment) 2016.



Dr. Lesikimacuata Korovavala
Permanent Secretary



Luke Ravusoni
Director Finance

Date: 01.08.2024

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURE
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

	Note	2023 \$	2022 \$
RECEIPTS			
<u>State Revenue</u>			
Operating revenue		990	1,578
Total State Revenue		<u>990</u>	<u>1,578</u>
 <u>Agency Revenue</u>			
Miscellaneous revenue		567,437	297,710
Rev from carriage of freight		424,276	207,223
Total Agency revenue		<u>991,713</u>	<u>504,933</u>
 TOTAL REVENUE	3(a)	<u>992,703</u>	<u>506,511</u>
 EXPENDITURE			
<u>Operating costs</u>			
Established Staff		9,290,784	9,303,064
Government Wage Earners		2,641,029	2,205,241
Travel & Communications		2,160,330	1,252,687
Maintenance & Operations		8,392,070	7,851,084
Purchase of Goods & Services		1,100,012	1,011,784
Operating Grants & Transfers		4,413,899	4,566,342
Special Expenditure		466,151	439,421
Total Operating Costs		<u>28,464,275</u>	<u>26,629,623</u>
 <u>Capital expenditure</u>			
Capital Construction		268,640	4,069
Total Capital Expenditure		<u>268,640</u>	<u>4,069</u>
 Value Added Tax		81,945	70,310
 TOTAL EXPENDITURE	3(b)	<u>28,814,860</u>	<u>26,704,002</u>

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
APPROPRIATION STATEMENT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

EG	ITEM	Budget Estimate \$	Approp. Changes (Note 5) \$	Revised Budget \$	Actual Expenditure \$	Carry- Over \$	Lapsed Approp. (Note 4) \$
	OPERATION COSTS						
1	Established Staff	10,596,950	(1,258,464)	9,338,486	9,290,784	—	47,702
2	Government Wage Earners	2,547,556	117,692	2,665,248	2,641,029	—	24,219
3	Travel & Communications	1,274,679	923,672	2,198,351	2,160,330	—	38,021
4	Maintenance & Operations	6,509,036	1,976,178	8,485,214	8,392,070	—	93,144
5	Purchase of Goods & Services	1,079,864	102,677	1,182,541	1,100,012	—	82,529
6	Operating Grants & Transfers	5,314,083	(883,793)	4,430,290	4,413,899	—	16,391
7	Special Expenditures	680,000	(156,362)	523,638	466,151	—	57,487
	TOTAL OPERATING COSTS	28,002,168	821,600	28,823,768	28,464,275	—	359,493
	CAPITAL EXPENDITURE						
8	Capital Construction	1,000,000	(500,000)	500,000	268,640	—	231,360
9	Capital Purchase	—	—	—	—	—	—
10	Capital Grants & Transfers	—	—	—	—	—	—
	TOTAL CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	1,000,000	(500,000)	500,000	268,640	—	231,360
13	VALUE ADDED TAX	948,900	(866,600)	82,300	81,945	—	355
	TOTAL EXPENDITURE	29,951,068	(545,000)	29,406,068	28,814,860	—	591,208

**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
STATEMENT OF LOSSES
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023**

1. Loss of Money

There was no loss of Money recorded for the year ended 31st July, 2023.

2. Loss of Revenue

There was no loss of Revenue recorded for the year ended 31st July, 2023.

3. Loss of Fixed Assets

For the Financial Year ending 31 July 2023, there was no loss of Fixed Assets recorded however; below are items that have been written off following the Ministry's Board of Survey for the total sum of \$944,119.

MISSION / HEADQUARTERS	AMOUNT (\$)
Fiji High Commission - Wellington	117,445
Fiji High Commission - Canberra	59,617
Fiji Embassy Tokyo	12,204
Fiji High Commission - New Delhi	153,658
Fiji Embassy Abu Dhabi	2,305
Fiji Embassy Geneva	225,085
Fiji Embassy PRUN-NY	129,100
Headquarters- Suva	244,705
Total	944,119

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTE 1: REPORTING ENTITY

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs promotes Fijian interests in other nations and on the world stage. This includes a broad range of activities from providing consular services to Fijians living overseas to organising high level visits to Fiji.

The Ministry develops and carries out Fiji's foreign policy and manages Fiji's relationships with other nations and with multi-national and sub-regional organizations like the United Nations and the Melanesian Spearhead Group. The Ministry is focused on securing the maximum benefits for Fiji from these relationships.

NOTE 2: STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Basis of Accounting / Presentation

In accordance with Government accounting policies, the statements of the Ministry is prepared under the cash basis of accounting. All payments related to purchases of fixed assets have been expensed.

The financial statements are presented in accordance with the Financial Management Act 2004 and the requirements of Section 71 (1) of the Financial Instruction 2010. The preparation and presentation of a Statement of Assets and Liabilities is not required under the current Government policies.

(b) Accounting for Value Added Tax (VAT)

All expenses and revenue are VAT exclusive. The Ministry on a monthly basis takes out VAT output on total money received for expenditure from Ministry of Finance. VAT input on the other hand is claimed on payments made to suppliers and the sub-contractors for the expenses incurred.

The VAT payment as per the Statement of receipts and Expenditures relates to VAT input claimed on payments made to suppliers and sub-contractors for expenses incurred.

Actual payments paid to FRCS during the year represent the difference between VAT Output and VAT Input.

(c) Comparative Figures

Where necessary, amounts relating to prior years have been reclassified to facilitate comparison and achieve consistency in disclosure with current year amounts.

(d) Revenue Recognition

Revenue is recognized when cash is actually received by the Ministry.

Administration Fees is charged by the Overseas Missions for providing services such as processing of passports and visas, birth certificates and police clearance. All fees are retained by the Ministry; however, the normal fees and charges for the above services are posted to the respective agencies FMIS general ledger.

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTE 3: SIGNIFICANT VARIATIONS

- (a) The Total Revenue collected increased by \$486,192 or 96% in year 2023 as compared to 2022. This was majorly attributed to the increase in the revenue from carriage of freight that records administrative fees collected on the Consular services provided by the Overseas Missions during the financial year.
- (b) The Total Expenditure increased by \$2,110,858 or 8% in year 2023 as compared to 2022. The increase was attributed to the increase in travelling that requires the Ministry's actual participation in foreign engagements post Covid. It is also noted the increase was also attributed to the Capital construction in which most Fiji Government properties refurbishment took place after the transition period (2022), which is in the end of the financial year.

NOTE 4: SIGNIFICANT SAVINGS

There was a significant savings noted for the financial year in the Capital Construction with the estimated budget provision of \$1m. In which most of the construction activities took place in the 3rd and 4th Quarter of the financial year, leaving more savings available for redeployment.

NOTE 5: APPROPRIATION CHANGES

There was a \$545,000 redeployment of funds for the Ministry during the financial year 2022-2023. In terms of appropriation changes, the following Virements were processed as follows:

VIREMENT NO.	FROM	AMOUNT (\$)	TO	AMOUNT (\$)	APPROVED
V08001/23	FNPF Geneva	494,016	Post All-Geneva	494,016	PSF
V08002/23	Superannuation	40,000	Overtime - HQ	40,000	PSF
V08003/23	Various	120,000	Various	120,000	MF
V08004/23	Various	68,500	Various	68,500	PSF
V08005/23	Various	525,272	Various	525,272	PSF
V08006/23	Various	821,600	Various	821,600	MF
V08007/23	Various	130,000	Various	\$130,000	PSF
DV0801	Trade Dev. & Investment	45,362	Running Expenses – PRUN-NY	45,362	PSFA
DV0802	UNDP Regional Office	270,000	MSG Contribution	270,000	PSFA
DV0803	Personnel Emoluments - GA	20,000	Purchase-Incidental	20,000	PSFA
DV0804	Various	2,621,420	Various	2,621,420	PSFA
DV0805	Various	652,566	Various	652,566	PSFA

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
NOTES TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (continued)
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JULY 2023

NOTE 6: BANK ACCOUNTS MAINTAINED BY MISSIONS

For the year ending 31 July 2023, there were altogether 13 overseas bank accounts for the ten (10) existing Fiji Overseas Missions. From these 10 Missions, seven (7) have one (1) bank accounts each and these are for Fiji Embassy Abu Dhabi, Fiji High Commission Canberra, Permanent Mission of Fiji to the United Nations (PRUN) – New York, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations and Other International Organisation (PRUNOG) – Geneva, Fiji Embassy Tokyo, Fiji High Commission London and Fiji High Commission Wellington. The remaining three (3) Missions have two (2) bank accounts each and these are Fiji Embassy Jakarta, Fiji Embassy Beijing and Fiji High Commission New Delhi.

A total of \$6,544,669 was recorded in the FMIS General Ledger under SAG51 for the year ending 31 July 2023.