



# MINISTRY OF WATERWAYS AND ENVIRONMENT

## Press Release

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Attention: Chief-of-Staff

For immediate Release

### **“We need to do a lot more to preserve our biodiversity”- Minister Reddy**

Engaging communities and civil society organisations in raising awareness on biodiversity and other environmental issues is vital given the fact that our economy, ecological life support, recreation, cultural and scientific factors depend heavily on it.

This was highlighted by the Minister for Agriculture, Waterways and Environment Dr. Mahendra Reddy while launching the Validation Consultation Meeting for the 6th National Reporting to the Convention on Biological Diversity & the first Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) clinic in Nadi this morning.

Minister Reddy reiterated that this consultation provides an opportunity to enhance understanding that empowers individuals to make choices and take action based on sound science and reliable recommendations.

“Ensuring Fijians of all generations enjoying a healthy and pristine environment to sustain their livelihoods for stronger and prosperous communities remains the Department of Environment's key priority,” he said.

Honorable Dr. Reddy necessitated a coordinated approach from the government agencies, Non-government organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society Organizations groups for raising awareness and changing mindset of communities on the importance of preserving our pristine biodiversity.

“One of the things we probably need to strengthen more is raising awareness in our communities and it will only be possible if there is a strong sense of partnership between government agencies and private partnership engagement. The importance of preserving our biodiversity needs to be communicated to our

communities first, followed by extensive awareness exercise on this,” said Honorable Dr. Reddy.

“When there are stronger partnerships and consultation between the groups, there is a better understanding of what the different groups and organizations are doing. It will not only provide accountability but will also build a stronger partnership amongst them,” he said.

The Sixth National Report takes stock of all achievements and actions in implementing Fiji’s national biodiversity targets and the global Aichi targets. The report helps inform Fiji's progress on meeting its obligation requirement under the CBD and its progress in implementing its National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP).