

Pacific and near neighbour biosecurity capacity building

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Australian Government

**Department of Agriculture,
Fisheries and Forestry**

Outline:

- Background
- Context of Plant Health to the Pacific Islands
- Activities
- Deliverables
- Outcomes
- Questions



Background

Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030:

- *A strategic roadmap for **protecting Australia's environment, economy and way of life***
- ***Australia's biosecurity system is a central pillar of our defence, helping us to prepare for, mitigate against and respond to risks to our environment, economy and way of life. Australia is part of a complex, diverse and changing world. Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 seeks to ensure that our biosecurity system continues to protect our interests and way of life.***
- *This is not a job for the Australian Government alone and highlights the **need to work smarter, be more collaborative, develop strong partnerships** across government, industry, the community and with other countries to help manage pest and disease risks.*

Strategic action

- Increase partnership activities with our near-neighbours to build their risk management capability and continue our engagement with key international bodies

Background

—Pacific Biosecurity Strategy (2022-2027)

- *This is the **first Pacific Biosecurity Strategy** developed by the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Forestry. The strategy aims to **improve plant, animal** (including **aquatic animal**) and **environmental health**, and **biosecurity outcomes** in the region*
- *Our approach to improving outcomes includes **relationship-building, collaboration and support**, and **co-design** and **co-delivery** with **Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)**, **near neighbours** and **relevant organisations** in the region. Our involvement in addressing themes and activities that could be conducted under this strategy ranges from **leading** to **being a partner** or a **participant**.*
- *The strategy will also guide our participation and contribution in the development and implementation of biosecurity strategies of other agencies and organisations in the Pacific region.*

Pacific Island context

— Pacific Islands share the same values and focus consistent with Australia's Commonwealth Biosecurity 2030 and the Pacific Biosecurity Strategy (2022-2027)

- *Protecting and safeguarding the environment, economies and way of life of the Pacific people*
 - *Strengthening the biosecurity systems that underpins and support trade and market access*
 - *Maintaining access to their cultural and traditional practices*
-many others*

Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) - *Protect Fiji's unique biodiversity and facilitate international trade, working together to protect Fiji: our people, our environment, our plants and animals, our livelihoods and our unique way of life for the benefit of our families, our visitors and our future generations.*

PNG National Agriculture and Quarantine and Inspection Authority (NAQIA) - *Prevent risks of introduction, establishment and spread of pests and diseases of animals and plants, including those that may consequentially cause harm to humans, agriculture, biodiversity, the environment and the economy.*

Samoa Quarantine Service - *Prevent or control the introduction and spread of pests and diseases that could cause significant damage to human beings, animals, plants and other aspects of the environment or economic activities on their island paradise*



Champaign beach - Vanuatu



Fiji Sunset- Suva bay

Presentation is not about the beautiful tourist destinations and romantic sunsets in the Pacific Islands but a celebration of Plant Health and our partnerships with our counterparts and stakeholders in the Pacific Islands



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Pacific Biosecurity Partnership Program (PBPP)

- Commenced in April 2020 funded by DFAT through the DAFF-DFAT Partnership
- The PBPP has 2 streams:
- Regional Trade and Market Access Support
- Solomon Islands Biosecurity Development Program (Phase 3) (SIBDP).
- Several activities have been coordinated and implemented to support the market access and trade in agricultural products and improve food security in the Pacific (including Timor-Leste).





Activities

- Solomon Islands Biosecurity Development Program (SIBDP)
- Develop and implement E-phyto systems
- Redevelop Pacific Islands Pest List Database
- Regional TMA Communication Strategy
- Pacific Export pathway Operational training
- Australian Fumigation Accreditation Scheme (AFAS) training
- Sea Container Hygiene Scheme (SCHS)
- Plant Health Surveillance (PNG, SI, Timor Leste)
- Animal health Surveillance
- Emergency Response and Preparedness



Deliverables - Training

- Pacific Export Pathway Training in Fiji in 2022
- AFAS training in PNG in March 2023
- Use and operate the Xray machines at the airport (Honiara, Solomon Islands)
- PRA and Systems Approach training in the Solomon Islands (delivered with SPC)
- Capacity building and training support through a DAFF officer in BSI
- Training associated with our field survey work in Plant and Animal Health





Deliverables - Surveillance

- Completing 3 Animal Health surveys through the Pacific Partnership. DAFF has a long history spanning over 20 years of animal health surveys
- Completed over 3 Plant Health surveys supported through the Partnership and DAFF. These surveys include the activities in Timor Leste
- Findings will be documented and shared through Factsheets

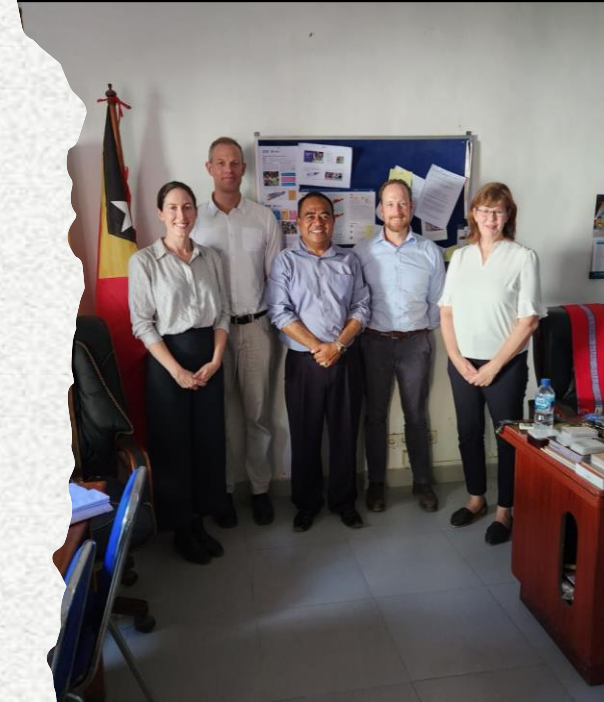
Deliverables - others

- DAFF Seconded (Duncan Snedden) is assisting and working with BSI to prepare for the Pacific Games.
- Launched our Pacific Biosecurity Page: <https://www.agriculture.gov.au/biosecurity-trade/policy/australia/public-awareness/pacific-engagement>
- Support the development of awareness material on the movement of clean containers
- Support the redevelopment of the Pacific Pest List Database



Outcomes

- Improved relationships and expanded our networks through our Biosecurity and Market Access activities
- Improved understanding of our engagement with our Pacific neighbors
- Improved awareness of opportunities for Pacific Island farmers and exporters to access markets in Australia and other countries through better understanding of the import requirements, and management of biosecurity risks
- Improved awareness of the process to prepare for and respond to pest and disease incursions
- Enhanced communication and engagement initiatives throughout Pacific island countries on both a bilateral and multilateral level
- Improved awareness and understanding of Biosecurity staff of the survey processes and status of priority plant and animal health pests and diseases.





Thank you