

Description of NPPO

The Biosecurity Authority of Fiji (BAF) is a fully owned Commercial Statutory Authority (CSA) that was established on 17th December 2008 under the Biosecurity Promulgation. It was formed following the reorganization of the Quarantine & Inspection Division (QID) and is the newly established statutory bodies under the government's public sector reform policy.

BAF manages quarantine controls at our borders to minimize the risk of exotic pests and diseases entering the country. It also provides import and export inspection and certification to help retain Fiji's favourable animal, plant and human status and wide access to overseas export markets.

More specifically, the functions of BAF include:

- To protect the Fiji Islands against the entry of regulated pests and diseases affecting animals, plants, human beings and the environment;
- To carry out surveillance and monitoring of pests and diseases in Fiji Islands and assess the status of regulated pests and diseases;
- To present the established and spread of regulated pests and diseases and the release of organisms that might adversely affect animals, plants, human beings and the environment in the Fiji Islands;
- To eradicate, contain or control the movement of regulated pests and diseases that are already present in Fiji Islands;
- To prevent the introduction and spread of regulated pests and diseases not already present in the Fiji Islands;
- To facilitate the safe importation/exportation of animals and plants and their products in accordance with the biosecurity requirements of the receiving countries;
- To facilitate international cooperation to prevent the spread of pests and diseases affecting plants, animals, human beings and the environment.

BAF's services or operations involve pre-border, border and post border activities.

At pre-border BAF:

- Participate in international standard-setting bodies;
- Undertakes risk analysis in relation to animals, plants and or other goods proposed for import;
- Maintains, including through bilateral cooperation, intelligence on the disease and pest status of its trading partners;
- Develops offshore quarantine and biosecurity arrangements where appropriate; and

- Works with other countries to build capacity to counter the spread of exotic pests and diseases.

At the **border**-BAF screens ships, yachts and aircrafts, people and goods (such as cargo and mail) entering the country to detect potential threats to human, animals and plant health in Fiji.

BAF also undertakes targeted **post-border** measures (that is within Fiji), which includes coordinating emergency responses to pest and disease incursions, monitoring and surveillances of these pests and diseases and creating education and awareness.

BAF also supports Fiji's agricultural produce exporters by providing information, inspection and certification to meet the import requirements of overseas countries. Exports including breadfruit, pawpaw, processed ginger, dalo, fresh fruit, vegetables and some processed fruits and vegetables are regulated by BAF.

BAF's vision is **"To be respected as the most effective and efficient Biosecurity Authority in the Pacific region"**.

BAF's **Mission** is to protect Fiji's unique biodiversity and facilitate international trade to and from Fiji. Each of us will work together to protect Fiji. Each of us will work together to protect to 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.

We will do this through:

- Being a self-sustaining customer focused commercial entity providing an adequate return on investments to our shareholder;
- Using our technical and technological expertise to carry out surveillance to prevent the entry or animal and plant pests and diseases;
- Monitoring, controlling and where possible eradicating existing animal and plant pests and diseases;
- Respecting, developing and motivating our employees to perform their tasks with efficiency, empathy and pride;
- Working collaboratively with government sectors, industry, community, regional and international bodies;
- Meeting our obligations to the World Trade Organization (WTO), Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Agreements, Codex, World Organization for Animal Health (OIE), International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) and other international standards;
- Establishing and maintaining strong relationships with our trading partners;

- Actively assisting to grow existing and open new trade markets to Fiji's agricultural exports whilst ensuring safe imports;
- Providing advice to government and overseeing policy on Biosecurity matters to minimize risk to the health of our communities, plants, animals, terrestrial and aquatic environment, oceans and businesses.

The following values are integral to pursuing BAF's vision:

- **Vigilance-** We will protect Fiji from plant and animal pest and diseases
- **Professional and ethical conduct-** We are ambassadors for our organization and our country in all we do and say
- **Empathy-** We will put ourselves in their shoes
- **Teamwork-** We encourage partnership and collaboration
- **Integrity-** We will serve in the best interests of Fiji
- **Leadership-** We will share our expertise and vision to inspire others
- **Reliability-** We will use transparent evidence –based analysis to enable sound decision-making
- **Innovation-** We will always look for better ways to do things.

BAF staff embraces the following principles

- Mutual trust, respect and support
- Open and honest communication
- Inclusive and collaborative
- Innovative and solution focused
- Committed to our Mission and Vision.

The Biosecurity Promulgation 2008 is the primary legislation that provides for the regulation and control of animal and plants into, out of and within Fiji. Inherent in this primary legislation are the powers to give effect to the relevant conventions of the WTO, IPPC and OIE, the provision of land and buildings for quarantine purposes, and the power to make secondary legislation, particularly the Biosecurity regulations.

As mentioned earlier, BAF is a declared Commercial Statutory Authority under the Public Enterprises Act 1996 and hence is subject to its requirements, in particular the reporting requirements under Section 79.

The Authority has dual reporting to the Minister for Primary Industries on quarantine policy matters and to the Minister for Public Enterprises on its commercial performance.