



INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: 2024 Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Forum (IPESF), Fiji

1. Purpose: To provide stakeholders with the concept, background, description and objectives of the 2024 IPESF to be held in Fiji August 6-9 2024.
2. Environmental Security and U.S. Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM): Environmental Security encompasses building capacity of partner nations (PNs) in disaster risk reduction, mitigation, and disaster preparedness; reducing endemic conditions; and increasing PN resilience to prevent serious harm to the environment and reduce human suffering.

The annual IPESF is the cornerstone of USINDOPACOM's Environmental Security Program which is focused on engaging with regional militaries and civilian agencies to address priority threats to the environment as well as risks to essential human services.

The IPESF is a unique security cooperation tool, focused on identifying the greatest environmental and humanitarian needs and utilized to develop relationships within the Indo-Pacific. IPESF Objectives include 1) providing resilience training to strengthen underdeveloped PNs ability to provide essential services to vulnerable populations and 2) address priority humanitarian and environmental challenges. During the 2023 IPESF, the Pacific Disaster Center (PDC), provided training on the DisasterAWARE platform showing participants how to access climate models to support climate risk management efforts, explore real-world case studies, and analyze several datasets to determine climate risks and adaptation needs.

An IPESF component is discussing with PNs their greatest environmental, humanitarian, and resiliency needs and identifying projects. Projects funded by USINDOPACOM, to address the greatest needs identified by PNs, have included oil spill preparedness and response training, wildfire suppression, combatting illegal fishing, solid waste management, water resource management, invasive species management training, and a coastal resilience workshop.

3. 2024 IPESF – Fiji: The Host Nation of Fiji and United States Indo-Pacific Command (USINDOPACOM) will host the 2024 IPESF in Natadola, Fiji in August 6-9 2024. The 2024 IPESF will focus on national resilience and humanitarian assistance through environmental security. The 2024 IPESF general themes can be inclusive of, but not limited to, the following topics:

- Water Security and Public Health (i.e. safe drinking water, water resource protection and management, water supply and storage management, wastewater management)
- Natural Resource Conservation, Protection, Restoration, and Management (i.e. Biodiversity conservation, addressing wildlife trafficking and crimes, integration of ridge to reef and traditional methodology practices)
- Disaster Risk Reduction, Preparedness, and Response (i.e. disaster preparedness education, people-centered early warning systems and services, disaster policy, disaster response training, and hydro-meteorological services)
- Boosting National Resilience and Adaptation to end Poverty (i.e. resilient basic infrastructure, nature-based solutions and the blue economy, key industry business continuity planning)

USINDOPACOM collaborates with the host nation representatives to develop the IPESF agenda through an iterative process over several months. The Final IPESF agenda isn't established until a few weeks before the event itself.

The 2024 IPESF will include presentations, panel sessions, and group activities to share lessons learned and best practices among stakeholders, as well as develop actionable plans to address priority risks to factors impacting

vulnerable civilian populations and priority threats to the environment. USINDOPACOM worked with PNs to identify the most pressing environmental security topics to include on past IPESF agendas, see Table 1.

4. Event Organization: The host nation and USINDOPACOM work collaboratively to organize the IPESF, develop the agenda, and facilitate the workshops. The USINDOPACOM team travels to the host nation two times for planning and hosts monthly conference calls.

5. Points of Contact:

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Table 1: Past IPESF Events

Year	Country Host	Environmental Security Topics Covered
2011	USA	1) Climate Change Adaptation, 2) Environmental Sustainability, 3) Water Resource Management, and 4) Disaster Preparedness.
2012	Indonesia	1) Regional Disaster Response 2) Pollution, 3) Deforestation, 4) Overfishing and 5) Water Supply Management in the ASEAN context (Association of Southeast Asian Nations).
2013	Australia	1) Sustainable Environmental Management in Military Operations, 2) Military Support to Disaster Relief Operations, 3) Managing Bio-Security Risks in the Military Context, and 4) Adapting to Climate Change Impacts.
2014	Maldives	1) Water, 2) Waste Management, 3) Resource Protection, and 4) Energy.
2015	Thailand	1) Climate Change, 2) Protection of the Commons, 3) Military Environmental Programs, and 4) Project Concept Development.
2016	Fiji	1) Sustainable Ocean Resources, 2) Protecting the Coastal Zone, 3) Resiliency to Weather Events, and 4) Regional Project Collaboration.
2017	USA	1) Environmental Security Best Practices in the Indo-Pacific Region, 2) Climate Change, 3) Water Security, 4) Waste, 5) Energy, 6) State Partnership Program, and 7) Biodiversity on Military Lands.
2018	Mongolia	1) Establishing an Environmental Security Habit of Dialogue, 2) Food-Water-Energy Nexus, and 3) Environmental Security in Contingency Operations.
2019	New Zealand	1) Climate Change, 2) Environmental Security Transformation, 3) Multilateral approaches to Environmental Security, 4) Coastal Planning, 5) Marine Pollution, 6) Biosecurity, and 7) Resource Protection.
2021	Virtual	Indo-Pacific Environmental Security Working Group Focus: 1) Education, 2) Policy, 3) Networking, 4) Mitigation
2022	Maldives	1) Climate Security and Role of Defense Forces 2) Addressing Small Island Nation Environmental Security Concerns 3) Ocean and Water Security 4) Women, Peace, and Security and 5) Climate Change Challenges and Solutions
2023	Sri Lanka	1) Climate Change and Security, 2) Maritime, Ocean, and Water Security, 3) Impacts of Urbanization and Land Security 4) Building National and Regional Resilience

For additional information on IPESF events and activities, please visit: www.ipesp.org.