

## Islanders lack climate change expertise: Lal

By Online Editor

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Help us ... many Pacific Islanders could be displaced by climate change (AAP, file photo)

Pacific Islanders currently lack expertise in climate change says the Director of the Pacific Centre for Environment and Sustainable Development (PACE-SD) Professor Murari Lal.

He made the comment at the first ever graduation of students from USP with Postgraduate Diplomas in climate change.

“The Pacific region lacks in-depth knowledge in climate change, and having professionals in this field will fill the much needed gap in specialized expertise on climate change,” said Professor Lal.

Professor Lal added that the Pacific region is considered to be the most vulnerable to the impacts of climate change because of its geographical location and size.

“The impacts of climate change pose immediate risks to the Pacific Island Countries which need to be addressed.”

Professor Lal stressed that further training was needed to help Pacific Island countries with decision making processes.

“Training people in climate change will prepare them to manage the risks associated with climate change and to formulate, develop, and implement climate change adaptation strategies for future sustainable development, ensuring that Pacific history, culture and the future of their children are protected.”

Professor Lal elaborated that PACE-SD through its research and development is identifying potential courses reflecting current climate and environment issues in the Pacific and added that the programme will expand in terms of course delivery as courses are developed in the future.

Of the eight students to graduate, two students were from Tuvalu and Palau while the rest were from the Fiji Islands.

SOURCE: FIJI LIVE/PACNEWS