Fiji Update 2009

Presented by the

Crawford School of Economics and Government,
the Australian National University

With the support of the Australian Government’s Aid Agency AusAID

David Hegarty  Steven Ratuva  Jone Baledrokadroka
Jon Fraenkel  Peter Larmour  Graham Hassall
Kalara McGregor  Renuka Mahadevan  Ron Duncan
Andrew McGregor

With the support of the Australian Government

AusAID
Strengthening integrity in Government – Fiji’s scorecard for Global Integrity’s 2008 World Report

Graham Hassall
School of Governance and Development Studies
University of the South Pacific

Fiji Economy Update 2009
Suva - 28 July
Labasa 30 July
Brisbane 14 August
1. About Global Integrity
2. The Integrity Scorecard process
3. The findings of the Fiji scorecard
4. Broader context and policy implications
Relevance of the survey

- The Republic of Fiji Military Forces cited widespread corruption in politics and the public sector as one of the bases for the removal of the elected government in December 2006 and the installation of the interim regime.
- What is the real situation?
- The “Global Integrity” scorecard provides all actors in Fiji – whether government, private sector or civil society – with an additional source of feedback on how Fiji’s integrity system can be strengthened.
Boundaries to the survey

• these findings reflect the situation in Fiji as in late 2008 (ie, they are in the post-coup period but pre-date the April 2009 abrogation of the constitution).

• They respond to wording in the “Report card” questionnaire; the specific situation in Fiji in some cases requires additional clarification.
Measuring Governance Performance with indicators

• There are Qualitative and Quantitative indexes
  – Some of the best known are:
    • Transparency International – *Global Corruption Index*
    • World Bank – *Global Governance Indicators*
    • Freedom House – *Freedom Index*
    • USP & ANU - *Good Governance index for Pacific Island Countries*
Reports on corruption/integrity in the Asia Pacific

• Transparency International – *National Integrity Systems Reports for Pacific Island States*


• ADB/OECD Asia Pacific Anti-corruption initiative
Global Integrity

– Established to generate information “…to serve simultaneously as a roadmap for engaged citizens, a reform checklist for policymakers, and a guide to the business climate for investors
– Produced scorecards for 43 countries in 2006 – and since expanded
– Diverse mix of funding from development agencies & private sector
– In 2008 held dialogues” in Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu
## East Asia and the Pacific

Click here for important warnings about our data.

Let us know what you think about these reports.

**Sort by:** Region | Rating | Year | Name

**East Asia & Pacific**
- **Australia**
  - Scorecard: 2004
- **Cambodia**
  - Scorecard: 2006
- **China**
  - Scorecard: 2007
- **Fiji**
  - Scorecard: 2006
- **Indonesia**
  - Scorecard: 2008
- **Japan**
  - Scorecard: 2007
- **Papua New Guinea**
  - Scorecard: 2007
- **Philippines**
  - Scorecard: 2007
- **Solomon Islands**
  - Scorecard: N/A, 2008
- **Thailand**
  - Scorecard: 2007
- **Timor-Leste**
  - Scorecard: 2007
- **Tonga**
  - Scorecard: N/A, 2008
- **Vanuatu**
  - Scorecard: 2007
- **Vietnam**
  - Scorecard: 2006

**Eastern Europe & Central Asia**
- **Albania**
  - Scorecard: N/A, 2006
- **Azerbaijan**
  - Scorecard: 2007, 2006

**More Key Findings**

- The most significant anti-corruption performance lag in much of the Arab world is poor access to government information.

## Methodology

**Data Downloads**

**Global Integrity Commons**

Subscribe to our Online Newsletter
The Fiji Scorecard

2008 ASSESSMENT

Fiji: 2008

This peer-reviewed country report includes:

**Integrity Indicators Scorecard:** Scores, scoring criteria, commentary, references, and peer review perspectives for more than 300 Integrity Indicators.

**Reporter’s Notebook:** An on-the-ground look at corruption and integrity from a leading local journalist.

**Corruption Timeline:** Ten years of political context to today’s corruption and integrity issues.

**Country Facts:** Statistical context for each country.

Fiji’s anti-corruption challenges appear to be rooted in executive influence over other branches of government as well as over civil society. Under the current military government, online content is monitored and at times censored; meanwhile, self-censorship in the media is strong and stoked by ambiguous libel laws. The lack of a formal access to information regime; the absence of regulations governing political financing; and virtually no accountability safeguards across the executive, legislature, judiciary, or the civil service highlight the legal gaps.
Fiji: 2008

This peer-reviewed country report includes:

**Integrity Indicators Scorecard:** Scores, scoring criteria, commentary, references, and peer review perspectives for more than 300 Integrity Indicators.

**Reporter’s Notebook:** An on-the-ground look at corruption and integrity from a leading local journalist.

**Corruption Timeline:** Ten years of political context to today’s corruption and integrity issues.

**Country Facts:** Statistical context for each country.

---

Fiji’s anti-corruption challenges appear to be rooted in executive influence over other branches of government as well as over civil society. Under the current military government, online content is monitored and at times censored; meanwhile, self-censorship in the media is strong and stoked by ambiguous libel laws. The lack of a formal access to information regime; the absence of regulations governing political financing; and virtually no accountability safeguards across the executive, legislature, judiciary, or the civil service highlight the legal gaps.
Fiji: 2008

This peer-reviewed country report includes:

**Integrity Indicators Scorecard:** Scores, scoring criteria, commentary, references, and peer review perspectives for more than 300 Integrity Indicators.

**Reporter’s Notebook:** An on-the-ground look at corruption and integrity from a leading local journalist.

**Corruption Timeline:** Ten years of political context to today’s corruption and integrity issues.

**Country Facts:** Statistical context for each country.

Fiji's anti-corruption challenges appear to be rooted in executive influence over other branches of government as well as over civil society. Under the current military government, online content is monitored and at times censored; meanwhile, self-censorship in the media is strong and stoked by ambiguous libel laws. The lack of a formal access to information regime; the absence of regulations governing political financing; and virtually no accountability safeguards across the executive, legislature, judiciary, or the civil service highlight the legal gaps.
330 questions asked in six categories:

1. Civil Society, Public Information and Media
2. Elections
3. Government Accountability
4. Administration and Civil Service
5. Oversight and Regulation
6. Anti-corruption and rule of law
Six main categories divided into 23 sub-categories:

1. Civil Society, Public Information and Media
   1. Civil Society Organizations
   2. Media
   3. Public Access to Information

2. Elections
   1. Voting and Citizen Participation
   2. Election Integrity
   3. Political Financing

3. Government Accountability
   1. Executive Accountability
   2. Legislative Accountability
   3. Judicial Accountability
   4. Budget processes
4. Administration and Civil Service
   1. Civil Service Regulations
   2. Whistle-blowing measures
   3. Procurement
   4. Privatization
5. Oversight and Regulation
   1. National Ombudsman
   2. Supreme Audit Institution
   3. Taxes and Customs
   4. State-owned enterprises
   5. Business licensing and regulation
6. Anti-corruption and rule of law
   1. Anti-corruption law
   2. Anti-corruption agency
   3. Rule of law
   4. Law enforcement
Key Findings in 23 sub-categories graded as either “very weak”, “moderate”, “strong” or “very strong”
## Key Findings - Fiji

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Very Weak</th>
<th>Moderate</th>
<th>Strong</th>
<th>Very Strong</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4. Legislative Accountability</td>
<td></td>
<td>4. Privatization</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. Judicial Accountability</td>
<td></td>
<td>5. Business Licensing and Regulation</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. Civil Service Regulations</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. Whistle-Blowing Measures</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. Procurement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. Law Enforcement</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key findings - global

• For the third year running, poor regulation over political financing remains the #1 governance challenge around the world.

• The most significant anti-corruption performance lag in much of the Arab world is poor access to government information.

• A new Grand Corruption Watch List for 2008 includes: Angola, Belarus, Cambodia, China, Georgia, Iraq, Montenegro, Morocco, Nicaragua, Serbia, Somalia, the West Bank, and Yemen; all countries at serious risk for high-level corruption.

• Several key countries show improvement or backsliding from previous years, including China, Kenya, and Russia.

• Eastern and Central Europe continues to perform relatively well on the Global Integrity Index despite widespread perceptions of weak anti-corruption mechanisms in the region.

• Corruption and transparency challenges appear to be worsening on the Horn of Africa, threatening to exacerbate tensions in an already-fragile security situation.
• **Public Access to Information**

Constitutional Section 174 (now abrogated) envisaged enactment of law establishing a right to information. This did not occur under the Qarase administration. There is nothing to stop the interim administration from commencing plans for a scheme of public access to information.

• **Political Financing**

There are no regulations on financing of political parties. As the time-table for constitutional reform has been announced, it is timely to commence homework on options for transparency in future activities of political parties.
Very Weak (con’t)

6. Judicial Accountability
   - Judges not required by law to give reasons for decisions (although they currently do give in practice)
   - The Judicial services commission is empowered to discipline judges but has never done so (apart from Fatiaki case)

7. Budget Processes
   - There is some opportunity for citizen and sectoral participation but not regarded as adequate

8. Civil Service Regulations
   - Numerous civil service regulations are inadequate
   - to ensure the public service is not politicised;
   - regarding declarations of conflict of interest
   - regarding declaration of gifts received and assets acquired during the period of public service
   - procedures for civil service appointments, promotions and dismissals exist but there is a widespread perception that these processes are politicised.
9. **Whistle-Blowing Measures**
   - Although Fiji has signed the UN Convention on Anti-Corruption and has issued a Decree on Bribery, these do not give sufficient provision for protection of “whistle-blowers”.

9. **Procurement**
   - Procedures for public sector procurement are insufficiently transparent.
   - Loopholes in the procedures allow for the possibility of by-passing regular procurement requirements in “special cases” in a manner that gives wide discretion to heads of ministries and departments.

9. **Law Enforcement**
   - Questions around the appointment of several senior police officials, giving rise to a public perception that the police force has been politicised.
Policy implications

• The Fiji Scorecard provide all sectors in Fiji with an impartial assessment of actual practice, and by highlighting gaps, provide a basis for efforts to further strengthen the country’s integrity system.
  – law reform
  – new legislation
  – enforcement of existing law
Policy implications (con’t)

• Many of the issues highlighted in the Fiji Scorecard are already known (reports of the Auditor General; reports of the Public Accounts Committee; media coverage).
• Media coverage frequently targets “high profile” cases, such as powerful political figures
• The Fiji Scorecard suggests that problems of proper implementation of rules and procedures is a challenge facing the public sector as a whole, as well as the business community
• The Fiji Scorecard also points to areas that could be addressed in Fiji’s forthcoming constitution revision exercise. Homework for this should start now.